Two recent developments demonstrate just how seriously The Department of Human Services has prioritized attention to domestic violence. About six months ago, Shirley Iverson Deputy Assistant DHS Director for Field Services, directed a committee to convene and produce a plan, a model, and priorities for DV 101 training for all 5,000 DHS staff.

A letter from the committee inviting comments and suggestions enlisted input from DV service providers from around the state. These were utilized in the planning. Now approved and in the RFP process, the project will be finalized by the end of July. The training will focus on domestic violence related services in an integrated DHS environment. The same training curriculum will be used across the state, with local DV service providers being included at each training site.

Another innovation, formed by DHS Director Bobby Mink, is the DHS Domestic Violence Council. Each member was selected after an application process and includes 10 DHS staff and 5 Community Partners/DV Service Providers from all over Oregon. I am privileged to be Lane County’s representative on this council.

Quoting Mr. Mink: "A hallmark of the Department's (DHS) reorganization is a focus on better outcomes for clients and communities through collaboration, integration and shared responsibility. The new Domestic Violence Council is founded on those principles by increasing awareness of collaboration around and responding to the problem of domestic violence."

Submitted by FVRI Advisory Committee Member— Jennifer Holland, DHS/SDA 5 DV Liaison
On July 19, 2002, Child Protection workers and administrators from five of the six Greenbook sites met in Washington, DC for the Greenbook CPS Toolbox Meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to give CPS folks in the Greenbook community a chance to get to know one another, offer peer support, share successes and challenges, discuss critical issues and to learn more about the Greenbook Initiative and resources that are available.

Susan Kelly, who facilitated the meeting, is a Senior Program Associate with the Center for the Study of Social Policy, and is a nationally known CPS expert who is an architect of Michigan’s model collaboration between CPS and domestic violence services. Other attendees included members of the technical assistance team, the federal partners and the national evaluation team.

Crystal Jackson, Training Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Social Services - Domestic Violence Unit, presented the group with their approach to collaboration. Participants engaged in several lively discussions, including:
• How to hold batterers accountable in the Child Protection system
• Domestic violence cases and ASFA mandates
• Confidentiality
• Communication and relationships with partners in the Greenbook
• ensuring policy, protocols and practices are understood and carried out by administrators and frontline workers
• Working with victims of domestic violence in CPS.

Participants ended the day by planning how to bring this information back to their sites and by listing goals they would like to accomplish in the initiative. Feedback from the group? TOO SHORT! Toolbox participants wanted 2 days, to continue relationship building and peer support as they continue to go through this Greenbook experience together.

Submitted by Dena Huff—NAPCWA Domestic Violence Project Coordinator

Honorable Kip Leonard recently returned from the second annual Greenbook Judges Toolbox, held July 11 & 12, in Boston, MA. Twenty judges attended this event, designed to provide an opportunity for cross-site learning and discussion. Topics included focused discussion on judicial ethics and involvement with Greenbook related activities, cultural competency and issues of over/under representation, and risk assessments. The judges also participated in site visits to various agencies; Judge Leonard visited the Brockton Family & Community Resources' batterer intervention program. There, the group met with BIP participants, discussing the program, effective responses to men who use violence, and issues of therapeutic versus punitive approaches.

Three key messages came forth from these two days:
• Affirmation of the importance of education for all players within dependency court on the dynamics of domestic violence, so that there is a common knowledge base;
• The problems and issues are more complicated in reality than in planning; the identification of issues facing families, and taking advantage of the moment to maximize the impact for the family is difficult to achieve;
• And still, we are incredibly lucky in Lane County, because our community is so accepting of the Greenbook work we are doing here.

Interview with Honorable Kip Leonard, Chair of the FVRI Executive Committee - by Diana Avery, FVRI PSC

BOOK REVIEW

“The Batterer as Parent” by Lundy Bancroft & Jay Silverman

Bancroft and Silverman pose the question, “Can a batterer be a good dad? They examined the characteristics of men who batter and found they tend toward authoritarian, neglectful and verbally abusive child rearing. Delving into the dynamics of parents who batter, the book discusses their use of control, entitlement, fear, and possessiveness. Batterers become role models that perpetuate violence, undermine moms’ authority and interfere with healthy bonding. Without intervention, parents who batter will not stop, are likely to harm future partners and, the authors conclude, children left in a batterer’s custody are likely to continue to live in violence. This book should be required reading for any person working with families of domestic violence. This highly recommended book is available through Sage Press.

Submitted by Cindi Hirschhorn - Womenspace Kidspace Program
ON THE ROAD AGAIN....

September
All Sites Conference Planning Meeting
September 19-20
Eugene, OR

October
National Evaluation LRP Meeting
Caliber & Associates
October 7-8  Fairfax, VA
Diana Avery & Audrey Block

Greenbook Policy Advisory Conference
October 17-18
Monterey, CA
Grant Nelson

OUTSIDE THE BOX...

“Children are the transmitters of culture. The Indian Child Welfare Act is an attempt to give tribes the opportunity to reinvest in their children.”


~ UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

Schedule of Events for upcoming visit from Fernando Mederos:

- Thursday morning, Sept. 5th: Let’s Talk forum, “Culture Heals”
- Thursday afternoon, Sept. 5th: Mr. Mederos meets with Parole & Probation staff
- Friday morning, Sept 6th: Mr. Mederos meets with Child Welfare staff
- Friday afternoon, Sept 6th: Mr. Mederos meets with local batterer accountability community

Still seeking facilitators for MDT Day Training, November 5th, “Focus on Batterers.” Facilitators from law enforcement are in great demand.

For more information:  http://www.co.lane.or.us/CCF_FVRI/MDTDayFacilitators.htm

Lane County’s Family Violence Response Initiative will be profiled in the first issue of the forthcoming national Greenbook newsletter. Thank you to Matt Freeman of PR Solutions for a fun interview and great article.

Check out the “Overcome” mural, created by the young women of the Looking Glass Evaluation & Treatment Center program that is hanging across from Café Today in the Public Service Building.

NEWS FLASH!

Please visit the updated Family Violence Response Initiative Website! Thanks to Rebecca Smith, FVRI & Malinda Dodson, Department of Children & Families for their excellent work.
http://www.co.lane.or.us/CCF_FVRI/

Deadline extended for TRUE ALLIES nominations. The Striving for Change Project will continue to accept nominations for True Allies through August 16th. To nominate a man in your life, go to the Family Allies website at:
http://www.familyallies.net/
# FVRI 2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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