Last fall, Amy McCormick, Children & Youth Program Director at Womenspace, attended a three-day advanced clinical training with the staff of the Child Witness to Violence Project. The conference focused on children who have witnessed violence – the impact, information on assessment, and discussion of clinical interventions and treatment. Here is a summary of important points and lessons to attend to.

Day one focused on background information and introduction to the Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP). This program of Boston Medical Center focuses on children 0 to 8, and their caregivers. Services feature multi-disciplinary teams of social workers, psychologists, early childhood providers, and advocates. This multi-disciplinary approach provides advocacy, case management, and therapeutic relationships in an ecological and contextual model. The guiding principles of the program are: 1) Understand the child’s perspective and honor the child’s story about what happened; 2) CWVP’s model is Child-Focused and Family-Centered; 3) Principles of intervention include an emphasis on establishing a safe therapeutic relationship with the family. The bottom line is, supporting the parent leads to her being more confident and empowered, which translates to the children.

The next two days focused on assessment and intervention for children affected by domestic violence. When conducting assessments of children impacted by violence, it is important to consider information from the non-offending parent; not just facts about the violent event, but also protective factors, strengths, quality of attachment with the child, and parenting strengths and abilities. The experience of staff at CWVP also speaks to the importance of creating a safe space, understanding the child’s age and developmental stage, prior functioning and coping style, and hearing the child’s story in a way that allows understanding of the meaning the child attributes to the event.

- - Continued on Page 2 - -
The intervention model of CWVP strongly involves parents and caregivers in treatment. The non-abusing parent is included in treatment. Involvement of the abusing parent depends upon safety issues, relationship to the child, and access to the child. Other support people and caregivers are involved as well, with the consent of the parent.

A particular area of discussion worthy of note relates to parenting traumatized children. Parenting is not easy in the best of circumstances, so it isn’t surprising to think that when parents themselves are traumatized, their ability to support their children is negatively impacted. Given that, in many cases, one good way to support and protect a child who has witnessed violence is to support the parent.

Following this point, the training included modules on Child-Parent Psychotherapy: A Dyadic Model of Treatment for Children Exposed to Domestic Violence. Benefits of dyadic work include providing an opportunity for parents to be there with their child and comfort in ways that weren’t possible before; allowing the child to safely express anger and betrayal for the caregiver not having been there when needed; helping the provider identify themes, distortions, and emotional nuances that would go undiscovered without the caregiver present; and, these real interactions allow for therapeutic interventions in the moment. All that said, the bottom line is that this model of intervention focuses on the child, on the caregiver, AND on the relationship.

For more information on CWVP, please visit their website at: www.childwitnesstoviolence.org

Parole & Probation—Staffing Update!
Submitted by Linda Eaton

Jason Spetter has been promoted to Casework Supervisor at Parole & Probation. Before his promotion, Jason was a parole and probation officer, carrying a specialized domestic violence caseload for several years. Jason was the first PO in Lane County to be involved in the pre-trial monitoring of domestic violence defendants, a grant-funded project for P & P. Jason brings a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge of field work to his new position.

Michele Madison has been assigned to a domestic violence caseload. Michele has carried a general caseload in her previous three years with P & P, as well as worked with a female inmate special project. Her caseload will include convicted domestic violence offenders, as well as pre-trial defendants. Michele is a hard-working team-player who we expect will be an excellent DV PO.

Mark your calendar!

“Trauma in Schools and Trauma-Focused Intervention in Schools”
Thursday, April 21st

“Evidence-Based Treatment for Child Sexual Abuse”
Thursday, May 19th

Call 682-4671 to RSVP
FAMILY Rules: Positive Parenting with a plan
Parental Empowerment for Raising Challenging Children

[FAMILY Rules: Positive Parenting with a Plan
Parental Empowerment for Raising Challenging Children

[NOTE: Valeria Mainwald is the Lead Advocate at the Women-space Shelter. Recently, she attended the “Parental Empowerment for Raising Challenging Children” training, presented by Michael Johnson Ph.D. creator of Positive Parenting with a Plan (P3). The goal of the seminar was to offer strategies for family members to promote positive parenting through positive role modeling and parental accountability. Ms. Mainwald has found this training to be very helpful in her work with moms in the shelter – and even gained a few tips for her own household! Below, she describes the impact on her work.]

Positive parenting, what a lure! What parent wouldn’t love for their home to run smoothly, while being clean and safe? I must confess I had a two-prong reason for wanting to participate in this seminar. Primarily it was to assist the women I work with; these women are dealing with the repercussions of children being parented in less than ideal ways and want help getting their kids back on track. The second reason was more close to home, my kid isn’t perfect and neither am I. Well, this writer is glad to report that this is an extremely successful way of parenting, no matter what types of issues your kid is having and even if they aren’t challenging beyond the norm.

Often children in domestic violence situations are parented in an unhealthy fashion; due in large part to the abuser’s attitudes of parenting styles and whom they perceive is in charge. When women arrive at the shelter with their children these families are clearly in crisis. Any information that I can give to them to alleviate the stress is usually received thankfully. This program is rather complex however can be fully initiated immediately. By using parts of the plan and slowly introducing the rest of it can be very advantageous for moms and kids in our program. It allows the families to set and follow their own set of rules for life, and creates realistic consequences and rewards that they can live with. This program also creates as a by-product the opportunity for the adults in a family to teach kids all the jobs it takes to keep a home and family clean and safe. My greatest hope is that this is information that will go home with the families I work with and might even transcend generations.

New in our Library:


My next meeting is …

Advisory Committee:
3:00-5:00, Thursday, April 7th
JJC Carmichael Room

Executive Committee:
1:00-2:00, Friday, April 1st
JJC Jury Assembly Room

[My next meeting is …

Advisory Committee:
3:00-5:00, Thursday, April 7th
JJC Carmichael Room

Executive Committee:
1:00-2:00, Friday, April 1st
JJC Jury Assembly Room]
# FVRI 2005 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 FVRI Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 FVRI Advisory Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 Children &amp; Trauma Teleconference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 FVRI Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Children &amp; Trauma Teleconference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 FVRI Advisory Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 FVRI Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **April**
- **May**
- **June**

*GB Project Directors Grafton County New Hampshire*