In early 2000, Kids First Safe Alternatives Center was founded at Lane County Legal Aid in collaboration with the University of Oregon Marriage and Family Therapy Program and the Domestic Violence Council’s Children and Family Violence Committee. The program evolved out of concern that children exposed to domestic violence, as well as their nonviolent parents, were inadequately protected during the critical time following the parents’ separation. Before this program, Lane County had no affordable, appropriate resources for supervised visitation and monitored exchange. Kids First responds to this need and is among the first generation of such centers in the nation.

Supervised visitation and safe exchange services are recommended by numerous experts in the field as an essential intervention needed to keep children and parents safe. In Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice, commonly known as the Greenbook (NCFJCJ, 1999), authors recommend that communities “create clear, detailed visitation guidelines which focus on safe exchanges and safe environments for visits” and “require that safe visitation and visitation exchange locations be utilized so that supervised visits and exchanges will be safe for the child and for the battered woman”. These services are considered “best practices” in many recent articles and books on the subject. For example, in The Batterer as Parent (Bancroft and Silverman, 2002), the authors cite the ABA Center on Children and state, “supervised visitation should perhaps be considered the norm for domestic violence cases.” They go on to suggest that batterers should be required to attend batterer intervention, and that supervised visitation should continue unless or until the parent successfully completes the intervention program.

By providing services in an environment tailored to the needs of children exposed to batterers, Kids First differs significantly from the more traditional, child protective services model for supervised visitation.

(Continued on page 5)
LET’S TALK Discussion Forums

LET’S TALK is a series of multi-disciplinary discussion forums on emerging issues related to innovative approaches to addressing domestic violence. These successful sessions are attended by alcohol and drug treatment providers, batterer intervention specialists, child welfare workers, domestic violence advocates, mental health care providers, and a range of others working to enhance our community’s response to perpetrators of domestic violence and their families.

These quarterly forums are an opportunity to increase our capacity to hold those who batter accountable and to increase the safety and stability of their families. LET’S TALK is a partnership of the Lane County Domestic Violence Council’s Batterer Intervention Committee, the Lane County Prevention Coalition and FVRI.

Each sessions provides three continuing education credits approved by ACCBO. To sign up for the LET’S TALK mailing list, please contact

NEXT SESSION:

MAY 22nd, 2003
9:00—12:00
Carmichael Training Room
Serbu Youth Campus

TRAIN THE TRainers

This workshop will explore the different origins of the child welfare movement and the domestic violence movement. Presenting and training on this information is an important part of understanding the different approaches and philosophies that can sometimes lead to conflict and confusion in collaborative efforts.

Instructor: Verna Tuesday, M.C of Court Appointed Special Advocates

Logistics: Workshop to be held from 8:30-10:45 on Thursday, April 10th, 2003 at the Lane County Mental Health Building in Eugene, OR. Contact Malinda Dodson at Malinda.Dodson@co.lane.or.us to RSVP.

NOTE TIME CHANGE!

GREENBOOK INITIATIVE
2003 ALL-SITES CONFERENCE
Dialogues for Sustainable Change
Eugene, Oregon
May 14 – 16, 2003

The Greenbook Technical Assistance Team (National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, American Public Human Services Association and the Family Violence Prevention Fund) will host the Greenbook Initiative 2003 All-Sites Conference, Dialogues for Sustainable Change, from May 14 – 16, 2003 in Eugene, Oregon. A team of expert faculty, facilitators, and others will guide the process, providing opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, cross-site sharing and intra-disciplinary conversations that highlight strengths, best practices, and advanced thinking on challenging issues.

All FVRI Advisory Committee Members are requested to attend. Registration forms will be distributed via email with your next Advisory Committee agenda and turned in at the March 20th meeting.
Q. How does Parole & Probation hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable?

A. Approximately 300 individuals convicted of domestic violence related offenses, such as Assault & Harassment, have been ordered by the Courts &/or the Board of Parole to periods of supervision by Lane County Parole and Probation. These clients must comply with numerous conditions of supervision, such as completion of a Batterer Intervention Program (BIP), refraining from contact with the victim, restitution, and substance abuse treatment. Many of the domestic violence-related offenses are classified as misdemeanors, rather than felonies; still, these offenders are under supervision based on currently available research on victim and community risk. This “best and promising practice” information supports Lane County Parole & Probation’s allocating supervision resources to DV offenders, as they pose a significant risk of violent re-offense against their victims. It is important for the DV offender to clearly get the message that their violent and threatening behavior will not be tolerated.

Parole and Probation officers (P.O.’s) meet the client in their office, at home, and sometimes at work, to monitor their compliance; during home visits, PO’s are on the lookout for indicators of violations of the no-contact order. Besides meeting with the client, other monitoring activities include contacting the victim (if safety can be assured) to provide information on the requirements of the client, and to offer information on area resources; the victim is also invited to contact the PO with concerns or to report violations. Also, the PO and social service agencies have been working to improve information sharing, as appropriate. The improvement of coordination between P&P and the courts, child welfare, the district attorney’s office, batterer intervention providers, substance abuse treatment providers, etc, has improved the county’s ability to address concerns. If conditions of supervision are violated, the P.O. can impose a range of sanctions, such as community service work, electronic monitoring, and jail time, depending upon risk to the victim and community.

Answer provided by Lane County Community Corrections — Parole & Probation
Embracing the Future:  
The National Conference on Community Partnerships

In February, more than 250 people came together in New Orleans to take part in a national gathering of sites implementing community partnerships and initiatives. Family to Family, Making Connections, Family Support America, and Greenbook Demonstration Sites (including our own Diana Avery!) were all represented. The conference, hosted by the Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, focused on the continuum of child welfare work, from prevention to foster care.

Community partnerships reflect the value of connecting agencies, families, neighbors, and organizations around the critical issues of child safety and stability. Key messages from the conference included the importance of supporting and nurturing change within systems and agencies, the vital role the legal community and courts play in developing strong community partnerships, and how coordination of services can lead to child welfare agencies being valued as community resources.

The Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare was established in January of 2002, with the overarching goal of changing child welfare systems through implementing a community partnership approach. This effort seeks to: complete the implementation & evaluation work begun in 1996; expand & adapt the community partnership approach throughout the child welfare service continuum, from prevention through foster care, transition for foster youth, and adoption; and promote a culture of shared responsibility for the protection & safety of children at the national, state, & local levels. For more information on the Center, please visit www.ccpcw.org.

FVRI participates in Greenbook Technical Assistance Audio Conference

On March 5th, several FVRI partners gathered for an audio conference on “Batterer Compliance in Co-Occurrence Cases: Issues and Challenges”. The conversation was led by James Henderson, the Honorable Elizabeth Pollard Hines, both from Washtenaw County, Michigan, and David Mandel, co-founding partner of the Non-Violence Alliance and the Domestic Violence Intervention Training Institute.

Key concepts discussed were, the impacts of the Judicial Oversight Demonstration Initiative (JODI), and working batterers as fathers. For more information on JODI, please visit: www.vera.org/publication_pdf/jodi_washtenaw_fact_sheet.pdf. For more information on the Non-Violence Alliance, please see: www.endingviolence.com

A local summary of the audio-conference is available on the FVRI website, on the Batterer Accountability Page. This call was recorded - if you are interested in checking out this inspiring conversation, please contact FVRI staff.
Self Care at the Gates of Hell

Some tips for keeping our heads above water when the families we work with and the systems that serve them seem to be facing insurmountable odds.

- Make contact with supportive colleagues regularly. Each lunch together.
- BREATHE fresh air.
- Avoid toxic negativity inside and outside work.
- Leave work at work and transition formally into your personal world.
- Build time for yourself into your calendar.
- Nurture supportive relationships.
- If work is keeping you awake or waking you up, seek some professional support.
- “Spend time with your pets!” - Diana Avery
- Telephone supportive friends while at work.
- Laugh! Employ humor and silliness.
- “The Gym, definitely kick boxing.” - Heather Karjane
- “Cut back on carbohydrates.” - Jerry Silverman

* Title from workshop by Scott Johnson, BSW, LAC

ON THE ROAD AGAIN....
Greenbook Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC)
March 27th-29th, Chicago, IL
Grant Nelson

(Kids First continued from page #)

The services Kids First provides include on-site supervised visitation, monitored exchange, assessment and ongoing monitoring of safety-related concerns, and community resource referral or safety planning as needed.

Kids First is modeled after accountability-based batterer intervention services in that parents are asked to agree to standards of behavior and responsibility, and they are held accountable for any failure to comply with those agreements. Whenever possible, Kids First collaborates with other service providers to provide system-wide accountability and consistency.

Kids First is engaged in a four-year, multi-phased program evaluation and research initiative headed by Dr. Jeff Todahl of the University of Oregon.

For more information about Kids First, contact director, Caroline Padgett at 541/683-6353 or mcpadgett@clas.org.

This project is supported by Grant No. 2001-WE-VX-K004 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
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