the Safe and Together™ model:
Making good decisions for children impacted by domestic and family violence
Background and Research

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International Center for Innovation in Domestic Violence Practice (ICIDVP) Mission

• The ICIDVP’s mission is to research, incubate, develop, and implement innovative ideas and sustainable practices to reduce and end domestic violence and child maltreatment.
• ICIDVP is committed to advancing domestic violence practice at the individual, organizational and community level through partnerships with researchers, practitioners, and policy makers.
• We are committed to helping our clients, who are individual practitioners, community agencies and collaborations, and government organizations, achieve their mission to improve the lives of children and families.
ICIDVP Practice Innovations

- Safe and Together Model Suite of Tools and Interventions
- Continuum of Domestic Violence Practice (CODVP)
- SafeEngagement/FathersPlus for home visitors, fatherhood programs and others
- Perpetrator Accountability and Change (PAC)
Safe and Together™ Model
Suite of Tools and Interventions

- Keynotes and conference presentations
- Training and coaching packages
- Practice, documentation, supervision and assessment tools
- Data, research and policy consultation
- Cross system collaboration packages
- Service delivery design
- Safe and Together model online learning courses
- Safe and Together model institutes and certification
Safe and Together™ model:
Better Outcomes for Families and Systems

Domestic Violence Informed Child Welfare System
- Improved Competencies
- Improved Cross System Collaboration

Better Outcomes for Families: Safety, Well Being & Permanency
- Better Assessment
- Better Partnerships
- Better Case Plans

Practice Tools
- Mapping
- Pivoting
- Case Planning Guide
- Supervisor Matrix
- Pathways and Planning

Foundation
- Model Characteristics
- Principles
- Critical Components

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Practice Tools for Domestic Violence Informed Child Welfare System

- Mapping Adult Survivor's Protective Capacity
- Mapping Perpetrator's Pattern
- Domestic Violence Case Planning Guide
- Supervisor Matrix
- Pathways and Planning
- Pivoting

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Safe and Together Model: Application

- **Differential Response States & Efforts**
  - Ohio: Certified Safe and Together model trainings (statewide DR add on)
  - Connecticut: Safe and Together mode consultants (statewide)
  - Colorado: Statewide training, policy technical assistance (statewide)
  - New York: Hotline training, support for co-located DV advocates, statewide training, region specific training (statewide)
  - Oregon: support for co-located advocates; other training (statewide)

- **Non-Differential Response States & Efforts**
  - Florida: Subject Matter Experts, co-located advocates (statewide)
  - Kansas City, MO & Lincoln NB: Support for local domestic violence collaboratives
  - New Jersey: support for co-located domestic violence advocates
  - Other states: Wisconsin, Louisiana, Vermont, Tennessee, Maine
  - Other countries: England, Scotland, Ireland, Singapore, Australia
When Domestic Violence is the Concern......

The domestic violence perpetrator and his behavior* are the foundational source of the risk and safety concerns for children.

* not the adult survivor or her behavior
Invisible fathers = poor work with families

- Lack of development of gender responsive culturally specific policies/services/interventions for fathers
- Gender double standard/bias
- Anemic/limited conceptualization of fathers in lives of their children/family
- No/limited assessment of father’s role in family
- No/limited documentation/case planning
Safe and Together™ Principles

1. Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent
   - Safety
   - Healing from trauma
   - Stability and nurturance

2. Partnering with non-offending parent as default position
   - Efficient
   - Effective
   - Child-centered

3. Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child
   - Engagement
   - Accountability
   - Courts

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Safe and Together™ Critical Components

- Perpetrator’s pattern of coercive control
- Role of substance abuse, mental health, culture and other socio-economic factors
- Actions taken by the perpetrator to harm the child
- Adverse impact of the perpetrator’s behavior on the child
- Full spectrum of the non-offending parent’s efforts to promote the safety and well being of the child
Model Characteristics

- Child centered approach to domestic violence
- Fact based
- Gender responsive
- Integrative & Inter-disciplinary
- Strengths based
- "Beyond Services"
- "Removal is an option of last resort" approach

"Beyond Services" approach

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Influences

- Victim centered work with perpetrators
- Making information about perpetrators relevant to other sectors
- Developing an understanding and valuing the role, strengths and limitations of different sectors
- Years of case level interactions with child welfare
- Work advocates and involvement with domestic violence survivors
- A strong gender analysis related to different expectations of men and women and differing patterns of behavior related to control and violence
- Humanistic psychology: body centered gestalt therapy
Leaders/Authors/Frameworks

- Susan Schechter, Jeff Edleson and Jill Davies (US)
- Duluth model/ Ellen Pence
- Lundy Bancroft and Jay Silverman
- Evan Stark
- Radford and Hester
- Cathy Humphreys (University of Melbourne)
- George Holden
## Men, Violence and Their Children: Results from Batterer Perception of Child Exposure Impact Study (Mandel)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledges that children have witnessed his verbal OR physical abuse</td>
<td>76.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believes that kids feel scared, sad or confused when they see or hear him acting physically violent</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believes various aspects of child's functioning and relationships are negatively affected a lot or somewhat by his abuse</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very worried or somewhat worried that son will grow up to be an abuser (40%) or that their daughter will grow up to be abused</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinks violence and abuse negatively impacted his partner's ability to parent (a lot or somewhat)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made it harder to co-parent with his current partner (a lot or somewhat)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felt his violence negatively affected his feelings about himself as father (a lot or somewhat)</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total sample of fathers (N=1,045)
Some show no concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all worried about long term negative impact on children</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not upset at all if child accidentally physically harmed</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not upset at all if child was abusive to dating partner</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not upset at all if child hated him because of abuse</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would never stop violence if he believed it was harming children</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would not at all upset if children thought violence was normal</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safe and Together Data

- Connecticut
  - High utilization rate of domestic violence consultants involved with 3000 unique cases/year (15,000 over five years)
  - Supervisor training (88 supervisors trained, 41% responded to the survey).
    - 66% identified specific positive changes in their supervisory practice;
    - 62% indicated positive change in their workers’ practice as a result of the training and
    - 50% of the respondents indicated positive changes in outcomes for families.
  - MDT pilot
    - “100% of respondents indicated that their agency has benefitted from the teaming of serious domestic violence cases.
    - “100% of respondents indicated that increased skills and awareness regarding domestic violence positively impacted how they handled sexual and physical abuse cases.”
    - “Over 81% of respondents identified that they felt that teaming domestic violence cases resulted in increased safety for families.”
Safe and Together Data

- **Colorado**: A series of three-day Safe and Together model trainings for a diverse audience that included child welfare staff and domestic violence advocates.
  - Of the 125 people who responded to a survey a few months after the training, 89% rated their experience of the training positive, very positive or excellent and 82% said that the training impacted their practice.

- **Ohio**
  - Positive preliminary data from the evaluation of work by DMA staff and Safe and Together certified trainers.
Domestic Violence Removals as Percent of Overall Removals (Bay & Gulf Counties, FL)

- Jan-June 2012: 20.6%
- June-Dec 2013: 13.6%
- Jan-June 2103: 9.1%
Verified Family Violence Threatens Child (FVTC) Maltreatments & Repeat Maltreatments (Bay & Gulf Counties, FL)
Correlation between model implementation and keeping children in homes

In Jacksonville Florida, the child welfare department was able to track the number of filings and removals for cases where domestic violence was identified. The data indicated a significant drop in neglect petitions (approximately 70% decrease) and removals during a period (approximately 50% decrease) correlated with significant Safe and Together model training.

![Graph showing correlation]
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on Twitter: https://twitter.com/SafeandTogether

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