Children and Adolescent Mental Health Forum

On October 23rd, Lane County’s Commission on Children and Families held a forum on Children’s Mental Health. There were two goals of the forum; one goal was to inform the commissioners about the issues faced by families that have children with mental health issues and two to gather information from families to help formulate priorities that can be submitted in our mental health plan for the state.

The families shared the strengths that families bring to children’s mental health care, the parts of the child mental health care system that work, and the barriers. The families were broken into small groups with facilitators and commission members were note takers. There were groups for the providers also. After the small groups answered these questions, we came together again as a large group so everyone could hear what issues had come up in the different groups.

The forum was made safe for parents to participate by having members of the Family Advisory Council (FAC) attending and taking part in the small groups. The FAC members were able to share parts of their family story to get the ball rolling. As a member of the FAC, I was made aware that although we have made progress in some areas we still have a long way to go in others.

The most memorable things for me were that I felt heard by some of the providers, a young woman in our group stressed that we should be asking the child/adolescent what their goals and dreams are, and how the whole system can see a family as a mini-system in it’s self. The parents are the experts about their children its time we families were treated as equal partners and not as the enemy, after all we are in this together and the best outcomes are achieved when we work together.

Submitted by Debra Depew, Family Advisory Council
Grant Nelson, Program Manager of Lane County Community Corrections/Parole & Probation, recently returned from the fall meeting of the National Greenbook Policy Advisory Committee (GPAC). He files this report.

Participating in this meeting provided a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share with our national partners. The sustainability break-out group reaffirmed that sustainability of this work will come from educating the community on the importance of providing well-planned, cross-system services to families impacted by the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. This could be accomplished by getting the word out through speaking to neighborhood associations and community groups throughout Lane County. A well-informed public is more likely to support our work, even in these times of budget shortfalls.

The meeting began with the induction of Grace Mattern as the new Tri-Chair of the committee. Ms. Mattern is the executive director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. Now representatives from all three systems share this leadership role. Ms. Mattern joins Carol Williams Spigner and Judge Len Edwards.

The over-representation sub-committee presented a plan to monitor the impact of our policies and system-change activities on the lives of people of color. This discussion highlighted again the importance of scrutinizing key decision points to examine where our policies might be creating over-representation within our systems. Also, as we implement changes, we must have in place ways to quickly identify and address unintended consequences – another plug for the importance of sound program evaluation!

This gathering of national leadership in the work to end domestic violence and child maltreatment was extremely motivating. The bottom line:

*An irresistible idea overcomes all obstacles.*

**NEW!**

**The Greenbook Initiative Website**

[www.thegreenbook.info](http://www.thegreenbook.info)

Come visit the website for:

- information about the six federally funded demonstration sites;
- a downloadable version of *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* (the *Greenbook*);
- an overview of the federal Greenbook Initiative;
- resources and links pertaining to the intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment;
- and other current materials.
Springfield Police Department Awarded Grant

The Springfield Police Department has been awarded a grant under the federal Violence Against Women Act to hire a Hispanic community outreach coordinator who will focus on domestic violence in the Hispanic community. Chief Jerry Smith announced that, in spite of the fact that SPD received only half of the requested VAWA funds, they will hire a full time bilingual/bicultural domestic violence advocate for the rest of the fiscal year and will reapply for the grant again next year. In accepting this grant, the Springfield Police Department is strengthening its commitment to reaching out to Spanish-speaking residents of Springfield, and improving communications with the Hispanic community. The Department will be aided in this project by the staff from Womenspace.

Charlie Kreiner offers Gender Specific Training in Lane County

Charlie Kreiner, founder and director of the Institute for Diversity Education in America, will be visiting Lane County the first week of December for a series of workshops sponsored by the Children & Family Violence Committee of the Lane County Domestic Violence Council, the Eugene Human Rights Commission, the McKenzie-Willamette Hospital DV Intervention Project, and the Dept. of Youth Services. The workshops include:

- “Men’s Work to End Violence: A Workshop with Charlie Kreiner”
- “Power, Worth, and Equal Opportunity”
- “Beyond Discouragement: The Hope of Working with Boys”

For more information, see the Family Allies Network website at www.familyallies.net.

Dr. Peter Jaffe Set to Visit Lane County

Dr. Peter Jaffe, of the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System, will be in Lane County on February 27th, 2003. The focus of Dr. Jaffe’s visit will be a training for Circuit and Appeals Court Judges and local Consortium Attorneys.

The Centre focuses on children’s mental health, specializing in issues which bring children and families into the justice system in London, Ontario Canada. Dr. Jaffe is the Centre’s Special Advisor on Violence Prevention and is a member of the Clinical Adjunct Faculty for the Dept. of Psychology and Professor for the Dept. of Psychiatry at the University of Western Ontario. Most of his clinical work and research involves children and adolescents involved with police or the courts, either as offenders or victims of family violence or custody disputes as well as individuals traumatized by violence in childhood or adult relationships.

Dr. Jaffe has helped to shape the Greenbook Initiative not only through his extensive published work, but also as a member of the faculty of the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges Family Violence Department Judicial Institute. We look forward to the opportunity to bring his expertise to Lane County.

Learn more about the Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System at http://www.lfcc.on.ca/
Q. Are Womenspace staff mandatory reporters of child abuse?

A. In general, Womenspace staff members are, by legal definition, not mandatory reporters. We do have exceptions. A couple staff members are licensed clinical social workers, and another works in the public school setting. They do fall under the legal definition of mandatory reporters. The rest of the staff, while not legally mandated to report, are ethically mandated reporters. In practice there is very little difference.

Our core competency is working with the adult victim of domestic violence to empower her to make changes that will result in greater safety for herself and her children. We believe that most victims of domestic violence want to keep their children safe and will make great personal sacrifices to do so. There are exceptions. If the woman herself is abusive to the children we will offer her parenting information and support and inform her that we must ethically report to Child Welfare. We will encourage her to participate in the call. If she discloses child abuse by the abuser after leaving that partner, staff will encourage her to make a call to Child Welfare herself with staff present and offering support. If she is considering returning to a situation that places her child in a dangerous situation we will inform her that ethically we are going to have to notify child welfare.

No staff person is authorized to make these decisions in isolation. In any case of known or suspected child abuse the case must be talked over with the appropriate supervisor or program director.

Answer provided by Womenspace Domestic Violence Services
~UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Cross Training Pilot Postponed: The second session of the FVRI cross training pilot, originally scheduled for December 5th, has been postponed to the new year.

Training for Trainers Set: The FVRI Cross Training Committee invites all local domestic violence and child maltreatment trainers and facilitators to join them on January 9th, from 9-12 at the Lane County Mental Health Building. Jennifer Self will share a tool for training professionals and volunteers who work with families dealing with domestic violence. The tool has received praise and lots of positive feedback from recent use with DHS staff, parole and probation officers, and victim advocates. Phone or email Rebecca Smith to register: Rebecca.Smith@co.lane.or.us or 541/682-6509.

Siuslaw Area Women’s Center staff, Marti Wicks, will be traveling to sister demonstration site, Grafton County, New Hampshire, to take part in the “Children’s Exposure to Domestic Violence” conference scheduled for December 5th. The featured speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, the co-author of Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice, also known as The Greenbook.

High Conflict Divorce or Stalking by Way of Family Court? This article describes how an abuser can use the court system to continue abusing. It is based on a case study of Linda v. Lyle. It can be read at <http://www.mincava.umn.edu/reports/linda.asp>.

New Research Concerning Batterer Intervention Standards: The most recent issue of the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma (volume 5, no 2) is devoted to the topic "Domestic Violence Offenders: Current interventions, research and implications for policies and standards". Brief summaries of articles can be found at <http://www.haworthpressinc.com/store/Toc/J146v05n02_TOC.pdf>.

OUTSIDE THE BOX…

“When considering our system’s response to a survivor/victim and our failed reform efforts, we have an obligation to begin with the question: Are we facilitating criminal and civil processes that can make her situation more dangerous?”

Rose Thelen
Praxis International
Audio Conference, October 2, 2002
### FVRI 2002/2003 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><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>3 Charlie Kreiner Workshops</td>
<td>4 Charlie Kreiner Workshop</td>
<td>5 Cross Training POSTPONED! Children Exposed to DV New Hampshire</td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td>17 Cross Training Cmt. 1130-130</td>
<td>18 DV Council</td>
<td>19 Catlin Fulwood visits N2N! Exec. Cmt. 1:30-3:30</td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td>24 McKenzie-Will DVIP Video Series 12-1 Crown Prince</td>
<td>25 CLOSED</td>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong> January 1, 2003</td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9 Train the Trainers Mental Health Bldg 9-12</td>
<td><strong>10</strong> FVRI Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16 Advisory Comm Meeting 1:30—3:30</td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td>28 LET’S TALK!</td>
<td>29 DV Council</td>
<td>30</td>
<td><strong>31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong> NET Site Visit this week</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLOSED</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td><strong>20</strong> Executive Comm. Mtg 1:30—3:30 Nat. Community Partnership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Peter Jaffe Workshops</td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>