

SYNERGY

The Newsletter of the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE & FAMILY COURT JUDGES

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As we begin a New Year, we find ourselves in a place of uncertainty. The Family Violence Department is committed to moving our work forward, and yet we are not completely sure what that means or where it will lead us. The events of September 11, 2001, changed us as a nation, as human beings. We have not only changed the way we approach our work, but the way in which we prioritize those things in our life that are so important to us.

We may be called upon to do our work in different ways, yet we trust that our work will remain of value to a nation that is healing. We are proud to witness and be a part of the resiliency of humankind in the face of such tremendous loss and sorrow. And we are inspired to make sure that our work continues to meet the needs of battered women and their children and advances the field of domestic violence and child protection and custody.

In this issue of Synergy, we offer two articles we hope will give our readers some food for

thought. In the first article, a leader in the domestic violence movement shares her struggles and imparts her insights on meeting the needs of diverse groups. The second article addresses batterers as fathers and looks not to the victim but focuses on the abusive parent for problems associated with children

being exposed to domestic violence in the home.

We also have several announcements, including one that the National Council of

Juvenile and Family Court Judges now has a permanent

executive director, Judge David B. Mitchell. We would like to welcome Judge Mitchell and to thank National Council past president, Judge Stephen B. Herrell, for his leadership and support during the interim. We also would like to thank each of you for the hard but encouraging work that you do, for sharing it with us, and for inspiring us in our own work.

Best wishes to all for a fruitful and rewarding year ahead,
Merry Hofford.

We are proud to witness and be a part of the resiliency of humankind in the face of such tremendous loss.

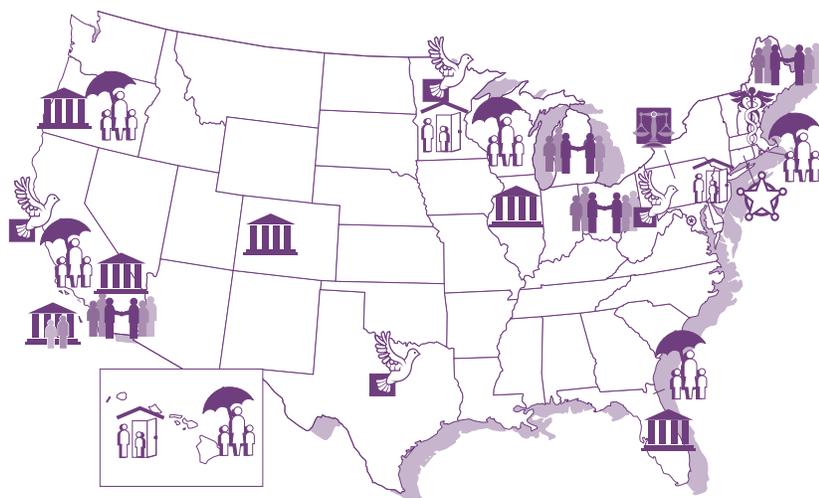
 **ADVOCACY PROGRAMS**
San Francisco, California: Asian Women's Shelter

 **COURT PROGRAMS**  **CHILD PROTECTION**

 **JUSTICE SERVICES**  **VISITATION CENTERS**

 **CROSS TRAINING**  **HEALTH SERVICES**

 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**  **PROSECUTION PROGRAMS**



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The map above shows the location of programs based in child protection agencies, courts, visitation centers, and domestic violence services which have been highlighted in recent reports or earlier issues of *Synergy* and which serve battered women and their children. The latest addition is the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco, California, highlighted in the Beckie Masaki interview.

Beckie Masaki: An Interview

This article recognizes the personal contributions of one of the many professionals whose vision and efforts are dedicated to assisting victims of domestic violence and to ending violence in all families. In this interview, Beckie Masaki, a leader in the domestic violence movement, shares her struggles, imparts her insight on meeting the diverse needs of battered women, and urges communities to become a part of the larger picture of social justice.

FVD Staff: Can you tell us a little bit about your background?

Masaki: I was born and raised in a Japanese American community in Sacramento, California. My father owned a little Japanese fish market and because my parents worked there I was very much a part of the Japanese community. I came to the San Francisco Bay area for college. My first job out of graduate school in 1983 was at a battered women's shelter. I was the first, and only, Asian woman who worked there. No Asian women even used the shelter. At the time, there was a pervasive myth in the domestic violence movement, as

well as within Asian and mainstream communities,

that domestic violence was not a problem in the Asian community and that is why Asian women were not using the services. However, a group of us women who are Asian knew that that was a myth. We did a lot of community education and developed the dream of the Asian Women's Shelter. We worked on that dream for five years before we actually were able to fulfill our dream and open the Asian Women's Shelter in 1988.

FVD Staff: Can you tell us about one of your struggles and how it impacted the work that you are doing today?

Masaki: My parents and grandparents endured internment during World War II. There

were a lot of hate crimes committed against Japanese Americans, they were targeted as enemies, and they were put in internment camps. I grew up with a sense of commitment to fight for justice because our community had experienced such injustice. My Buddhist upbringing taught me that non-violence is a core value. Practicing peace and applying that peace daily are very important. I wanted to make a contribution to my community but at the first shelter I worked, I was really discriminated against, excluded, and not taken seriously. My issues and the issues of my community were ignored and I felt invisible—even though it was a women's organization.

When people like myself would speak up about our concerns, we were just seen as making trouble or complaining and not taken seriously. It is very difficult to be the only one in an agency speaking out. Often, your views get personalized as just your own or tokenized and then you're taking on the weight and responsibility of trying to represent a whole community. It's impossible. It is really a trap for you because it is true you can't represent everybody's voice, but if you are the only one from a certain community you just feel that responsibility to try to speak up.

FVD Staff: What would you tell someone who felt the isolation you just described as they were trying to be heard?

Masaki: My advice would be to find some allies because you are not alone—just like we tell battered women. A really beautiful story happened at the Multi-Cultural Forum on Violence Against Women: The Millennium Continuum, which was held in Puerto Rico last July. I was on the panel for a workshop, entitled Developing Our Leadership Needs: A Dialogue Between Ethnically Diverse Women and Program Directors. One Latina woman in the audience talked about her challenges in feeling so isolated.



“I wanted to make a contribution to my community but at the first shelter I worked, I was really discriminated against, excluded, and not taken seriously. My issues and the issues of my community were ignored and I felt invisible—even though it was a woman’s organization.”

She said that she was starting a program and didn't know who to talk to. Finally someone gave her the name of another Latina who lived two states away. She had never met her before, but talked to her on the phone and felt very comforted by the woman's validation and advice. She felt the woman had given her the strength to continue building her program. After she spoke, she got a little tap on her shoulder and the woman was sitting right behind her. They found each other in that workshop, although they had spoken over the years by phone, this was the first time they had met. That, to me, is really important.

I, myself, probably would have quit domestic violence work if it had not been for Debbie Lee at the Family Violence Prevention Fund. I felt so isolated when I was working at that other shelter. I thought that this work must not be for people like me. Debbie introduced me the California Women of Color Against Domestic Violence where I met people like Catlin Fullwood and Deean Jang. I found some like-minded women and was able to stay in the work. What I have been able to accomplish is only because of the women with whom I work, my co-workers, the co-founders of the Asian Women's Shelter, and most importantly battered women and their children. None of this process has been in isolation; it has always been through interaction with others and working together.

FVD staff: What would you tell someone who was asking for your assistance in helping a diverse group of people to work together?

Masaki: First, I would tell this person that everyone needs to share the same vision and mission and then let those things guide your work. I believe that is what has helped the Asian Women's Shelter transcend turf issues and other divisions. Whenever we enter into collaborative work with others, we do so with the purpose of building a network that is bigger, stronger, and better than the Asian Women's Shelter alone. Second, I would say that it is extremely important to honor and have representation from the groups that you are trying to reach out to. If you are trying to provide services in the Korean community, you should collaborate with people from the Korean community, which means more than hiring one Korean domestic violence worker.

FVD staff: A term that often comes up when we talk about diversity is cultural competence. What does cultural competence mean to you?

Masaki: Cultural competence means having an awareness of and an ongoing commitment to learning your own cultural biases—because everybody has them, and then being able to identify and

be aware of those biases as you work with people from your cultural background, as well as across cultural backgrounds. To feel comfortable with that diversity is to value diversity: diversity of opinion, diversity of viewpoint, and diversity of experiences and background. Diversity helps you to be more accessible to many different groups and enables you to see many different points of view that you may miss if you surround yourself only with people like yourself. Sometimes diversity brings conflict.

However, I think if people handle this confrontation with mutual respect for each other and really listen to each other, then you actually come out to a better place at the end.

FVD Staff: In what ways could culturally specific programs, like the Asian's Women's Shelter, assist other organizations as they strive to meet the needs of all battered women?

Masaki: There are several ways that we try to assist other organizations. Locally, we have a component called Community Building and under that component we include community education, institutional advocacy, community organizing, and technical assistance. Through

these methods, we try to build a response to domestic violence beyond our Asian Women's Shelter alone. For example, we recruit and train bilingual women in our community. These women receive 70 to 80 hours of training and then we pay them by the hour to be on-call language advocates. We have extended our model so advocates can work in other domestic violence programs. However, before other domestic violence programs can access our language advocates, we require that they come up with a diversity plan for their organization. We provide the technical assistance for them to develop the plan so that they do not have to rely solely on the cultural and language background of our advocates to provide diverse services. We encourage other programs to look at funding development, program policies, house rules, and intake procedures within their own programs to make sure that these are

“Cultural competence means having an awareness of and an ongoing commitment to learning your own cultural biases ... and then being able to identify and be aware of those biases as you work with people from your cultural background, as well as across cultural backgrounds.”

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Beckie Masaki: An Interview (continued)



acceptable for women from diverse backgrounds.

Recently, we received a Violence Against Women Technical Assistance Grant to be able to do more national-level technical assistance work. With this grant we will be able to provide technical assistance and cross training in other communities throughout the nation to help them to address the needs of Asian battered women and children better.

FVD staff: You spoke of some of the challenges for Asian women when they enter domestic violence shelters. What are some of the barriers for women, and specifically for Asian women, in accessing these and other services?

Masaki: Many women accessing services are immigrants who do not understand the criminal justice system, what their rights are, or what the laws say about domestic violence. If you are isolated in an abusive relationship, you are not going to know that it is okay to call the police. Even when the police come they often are not trained to respond to diverse populations. And even if they are trained, it can be hard for them to tailor their response to the situation and fully understand it when they are coming onto the scene.

The women also may have limited or no English speaking skills. Their batterer's are often much more fluent. That is part of the batterer's control dynamic-not letting the woman learn English or go to classes. Another challenge is not being able to afford and receive legal representation. Batterers often manipulate the system in the same manner they manipulate a lot of things to get their way or assert power and control. Some batterers manipulate the custody system and are very convincing. Visitation can present a problem as well because there are limited supervised visitation centers and it is not safe for women when they do the exchange.

Often the woman's community does not support her so her own neighborhood or community is not alert to domestic violence or able or willing to help her to make a good safety plan. When the community is not educated about domestic violence people tend to blame or label the victim or ostracize her from the community, which puts the battered woman in further isolation and danger.

Systems also can compromise a woman's safety when we are not able to comprehend fully a woman's situation, speak her language, or under-

stand the complex systems that she has to negotiate-like immigration, welfare, or housing.

FVD Staff: What needs to change to break down these barriers?

Masaki: I really think that change involves building community; that is something that has disintegrated in our society at large, as well as for battered women. What I mean by building community is that people need to care for and support each other, make it their business to speak up against abuse, and support families that are trying to get away from the abuse. Also, more support needs to be given to those women who choose to stay in the relationship, including holding their batterers accountable. The community also could provide an important role in

that situation. In fact, I do not see how it could happen without community support.

FVD Staff: How would community break down these barriers in your vision?

Masaki: There are a few places that I know of where the barriers have been broken, and it is in places where a sense of community exists. I think having a sense of community is really a challenge today because our communities have become so fragmented. However, where there is a tight-knit community, where people still feel accountable to their commu-

nity members, then I think that change is very hopeful.

FVD staff: What can service providers do to make sure they are meeting the needs of children impacted by domestic violence?

Masaki: Domestic violence services are really focused on battered women. We support the battered woman, help her to make a safety plan, or strategize how she can bring her children with her. From the very beginning, the children are the secondary clients, not the primary ones. Consequently, children's programs or the needs of children are the secondary piece of the work even though we know this part of the work is so important.

We really have to validate children's needs because they are going through so much. Often children blame themselves for the violence, try to protect their mother, or really don't want to discuss their true feelings. Children need a space to express themselves as they go on their own path towards healing.

We are part of a larger picture or piece of social justice and need to make connections with the other organizations or movements such as those working to end poverty, racism and homophobia.

Sowing the Seeds of Change:

The Greenbook Initiative

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (National Council), in partnership with the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPPF), the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), and the St. Louis Steering Committee, hosted the first All-Sites Conference on Oct. 17-19, 2001 in the charming city of St. Louis, MO. This event marked the first official conference for the six demonstration sites involved in the federal project, Collaborations to Address Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment: A Public-Private Initiative (Initiative), which is based on the National Council's publication *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice (Greenbook)*. The conference was organized around the theme of:

gathering: identifying the critical issues (seeds);

planting: creating a balanced mixture of context, content, and process; and

sowing: spreading the strategy for change by planting it into the hearts and minds of people at the national and local levels.

Participants included multidisciplinary teams from the demonstration sites in El Paso County, CO; Grafton County, NH; Lane County, OR; San Francisco, CA; Santa Clara County, CA; and St. Louis County, MO. Also in attendance were representatives from the federal partners, including the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services; evaluation partners, representing Caliber Associates, Education Development Center, and National Center for State Courts; and technical assistance partners, representing the National Council, FVPPF, and APHSA. The conference marked a celebratory juncture in a journey that began over six

months ago when the Initiative first started. It also represented an affirmation of continued commitment to build on existing relationships and make new ones, and to take risks and find common ground to create a shared vision of safe harbors for battered women and their children.

Local and national Initiative partners had the opportunity

to come together to learn, share, and be challenged by such issues as enhancing batterer accountability in the context

of victim safety, managing confidentiality in a collaborative environment, and developing evaluation strategies and tools that document and guide local *Greenbook* implementation efforts. Cultural competency also was woven into the process by fashioning a space for diverse perspectives. Participants explored how communities of color and/or poverty might react to the "helping" policies and practices of child welfare, domestic violence, and judicial systems.

The conference opened to the heartfelt songs of a survivor and the personal reflections of a woman who lived in a home filled with the horror of both domestic violence and child maltreatment. As each of these courageous women shared her story,

participants traveled back in time with her and experienced the rage, pain, and utter helplessness of her situation. It was a moving experience that no one is likely to forget. Their stories re-energized people and once again validated the importance and urgency of this work.

The Office for Victims of Crime, the Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services generously provided funding for this event.



Paso a Pueblo Verde

Sowing the Seeds of Change

The Batterer as Parent

Research on children's exposure to domestic violence has tended to focus primarily on two aspects of their experience: the trauma of witnessing physical assaults against their mother, and the

tension produced by living with a high level of conflict between their parents.¹ However, these are just two elements of a much deeper problem pervading these children's daily life, which is that *they are living with a batterer*. The parenting of men who batter exposes children to multiple potential sources of emotional and physical injury, most of which have not been recognized widely.

This article looks at the characteristics of men who batter and identifies ways in which these characteristics also influence their ability to parent appropriately. Additionally, the article will address the implications of

such parenting for child protective and custody determinations.

Characteristics of Men Who Batter

Most of the characteristics that are typical of men who batter have potential ramifications for children in the home. Batterers often tend toward authoritarian, neglectful, and verbally abusive child-rearing.² The effects on the children of these and other parenting weaknesses may be intensified by the children's prior traumatic experience of witnessing violence.³ Consider the following selected examples of characteristics of men who batter.

Control:

Coerciveness is widely recognized as a central quality of battering men,⁴ and one of the areas of life heavily controlled by many men who batterer is the mother's parenting. A man who batters may cause or forbid his partner to terminate a pregnancy, overrule her parenting decisions, or assault her when he is angry over the children's behavior. Battered women are far more likely than other mothers to feel that they have to alter their parenting styles when their partners are present.⁵

Entitlement:

A man who batters considers himself entitled to a special status within the family, with the right to use violence when he deems it necessary.⁶ This outlook of entitlement can lead to selfish and self-centered behavior on his part. For example, he may become irate or violent when he feels that his partner is paying more attention to the children than to him. It is difficult for children to have their needs met in such an atmosphere and they are vulnerable to role-reversal, where they are made to feel responsible to take care of the battering parent.

Possessiveness:

Men who batter often have been observed to perceive their partners as owned objects.⁷ This possessive outlook can sometimes extend to their children, partly accounting for the dramatically elevated rates of physical abuse⁸ and sexual abuse⁹ of children perpetrated by batterers and for the fact that these men seek custody of their children more often than non-battering fathers do.¹⁰

Other characteristics that can have an important impact on children include manipulativeness, denial and minimization of the abuse, battering in multiple relationships, and resistance to change.

Influence of Battering on Parenting

The characteristics discussed above influence the parenting of men who batter and negatively impact the children by:

- creating role models that perpetuate the violence,
- undermining the mother's authority,
- retaliating against the mother for her efforts to protect the children,
- sowing divisions within the family, and
- using the children as weapons against the mother.

Creating role models that perpetuate the violence.

Boys who are exposed to domestic violence show dramatically elevated rates of battering their own partners as adolescents or adults.¹¹

Research suggests that this connection is a product more of the values and attitudes that boys learn from witnessing battering behavior than of the emotional trauma of being exposed to such abuse.¹²

Daughters of battered women show increased difficulty in escaping partner abuse in their adult



This article summarizes portions of the author's book *The Batterer as Parent: Addressing the impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics* (co-authored with Dr. Jay G. Silverman of the Harvard School of Public Health), forthcoming in March from Sage Publications. Lundy Bancroft is a batterer intervention specialist and guardian *ad litem*. His second book, *Why Does He Do That?: Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men* will be published in September by G.P. Putnam.

“A man who batters considers himself entitled to a special status within the family, with the right to use violence when he deems it necessary.”

relationships.¹³ Both boys and girls have been observed to accept various aspects of the batterer's belief-system,¹⁴ including the view that victims of violence are to blame, that women exaggerate hysterically when they report abuse, and that males are superior to females.

Undermining the mother's authority.

Domestic violence is inherently destructive to maternal authority because the batterer's verbal abuse and violence provide a model for children of contemptuous and aggressive behavior toward their mother. The predictable result, confirmed by many studies, is that children of battered women have increased rates of violence and disobedience toward their mothers.¹⁵ Some battered mothers make reports of being prevented from picking up a crying infant or from assisting a frightened or injured child and of being barred from providing other basic physical, emotional, or even medical care. Interference of this kind can cause the children to feel that their mother does not care about them or is unreliable. The batterer may reinforce those feelings by verbally conditioning the children through statements such as, “Your mother doesn't love you,” or, “Mommy only cares about herself.”

Retaliation for her efforts to protect the children.

A mother may find that she is assaulted or intimidated if she attempts to prevent the batterer from mistreating the children, or may find that he harms the children more seriously to punish her for standing up for them. Therefore, she may be forced over time to stop intervening on her children's behalf. This dynamic can lead children to perceive their mother as uncaring about the batterer's mistreatment of them,

and can contribute to her being labeled by child protective services as “failing to protect.”

Sowing divisions with the family.

Some batterers use favoritism to build a special relationship with one child in the family. As some researchers have noted, the favored child is particularly likely to be a boy, and the batterer may bond with him partly through encouraging a sense of superiority to females.¹⁶ Batterers also may create or feed familial tensions deliberately. These manipulative behaviors are a likely factor in the high rate of inter-sibling conflict and violence observed in families exposed to battering behavior.¹⁷

Using the children as weapons.

Many men who batter use children as a vehicle to harm or control the mother¹⁸ through such tactics as destroying the children's belongings to punish the mother, requiring the children to monitor and report on their mother's activities, or threatening to kidnap or take custody of the children if the mother attempts to end the relationship. These parenting behaviors draw the children into the abuser's behavior pattern. Post-separation, many batterers use unsupervised visitation as an opportunity to further abuse the mother through the children.¹⁹

Implications for Custody Determinations

Determinations regarding child protection, custody, and visitation in the context of domestic violence need to be informed by an awareness of the destructive parenting behaviors exhibited by many men who batter, and the effects of such behaviors on children and their mothers. These behaviors have especially important implications for children who are struggling with two sets of psychological injuries, one from exposure to the battering behavior and the other from their parents' divorce. Some elements to examine closely when crafting interventions for families include:

Addressing the healing needs of children.

There is a wide consensus that children's recovery from exposure to



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The Batterer as Parent (continued)

“...In addition to safety considerations, court determinations should take into account whether the batterer is likely, based on his past and current behavior, to continue to undermine the mother’s authority, interfere with mother-child relationships, or cause tension between siblings.”

domestic violence and from divorce depends largely on the quality of their relationship with the non-battering parent and with their siblings.²⁰ Therefore, in addition to safety considerations, court determinations should take into account whether the batterer is likely, based on his past and current behavior, to continue to undermine the mother’s authority, interfere with mother-child relationships, or cause tensions between siblings. Because children need a sense of safety in order to heal,²¹ juvenile and family court decisions may not want to include leaving the children in the unsupervised care of a man whose violent tendencies they have witnessed, even if they feel a strong bond of affection for him.

Making appropriate assessments in custody determinations.

A batterer’s history of abusive behavior and how such abuse reflects on his parenting needs to be investigated carefully, assessing for the presence of any of the common problems described above, and paying particular attention to the risk that children may become a vehicle for continued abuse of the mother.²² Courts need to ensure that custody evaluators have extensive training on the multiple sources of risk to children from custody or unsupervised contact with the abusive parent.

Safely fostering father-child relationships.

Except in cases where the children are terrified of the battering parent or have been abused by him directly, children tend to desire some degree of ongoing contact with their fathers. Such contact can be beneficial as long as adequate safety measures are provided for the mother and children and the abuser is not given the opportunity to cause setbacks to the children’s emotional recovery. These goals can be fostered through custody arrangements that take into full consideration the violence in the home caused by the battering parent and through the use of professionally supervised visitation, ideally based in a visitation center. Where unsupervised visitation is found to be safe, the use of relatively short visits that do not include overnight visits can reduce the batterer’s ability to damage mother-

child relationship, limit his negative influence on the children’s behavior and value—systems, and ensure that the children feel safe and secure—while still allowing them to feel a continued connection to their father.

NOTES

- 1 See for example, Rossman, R., Hughes, H., & Rosenberg, M. (2000). *Children and Interparental Violence: The Impact of Exposure*. Philadelphia: Brunner/Mazel.
- 2 Bancroft, L. & Silverman, J. (2002). *The Batterer as Parent: Addressing The Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 3 Margolin, G., John, R., Ghosh, C., & Gordis, E. (1996). Family Interaction Process: An Essential Tool for Exploring Abusive Relationships. In D. Cahn & S. Lloyd (Eds.), *Family Violence From a Communication Perspective* (pp. 37-58). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 4 Lloyd, S., & Emery, B. (2000). *The Dark Side of Courtship: Physical and Sexual Aggression*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 5 Holden, G. & Ritchie, K. (1991). Linking Extreme Marital Discord, Child Rearing, and Child Behavior Problems: Evidence from Battered Women. *Child Development*, 62, 311-327.
- 6 Silverman, J., & Williamson, G. (1997). Social Ecology and Entitlements Involved in Battering by Heterosexual College Males: Contributions of Family and Peers. *Violence and Victims*, 12(2), 147-164.
- 7 Adams, D. (1991). *Empathy and Entitlement: A Comparison of Battering and Nonbattering Husbands*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. (Available from Emery, 2380 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA, 02140); Lloyd & Emery, op. cit.
- 8 E.g. Straus, M. (1990). Ordinary Violence, Child Abuse, and Wife-beating: What Do They Have in Common? In M. Straus & R. Gelles (Eds.), *Physical Violence in American Families* (pp. 403-424). New Brunswick: Transaction; Suh, E., & Abel, E.M. (1990). The Impact of Spousal Violence on The Children of The Abused. *Journal of Independent Social Work*, 4(4), 27-34; and several other studies.
- 9 E.g. McCloskey, L.A., Figueredo, A.J., & Koss, M. (1995). The Effect of Systemic Family Violence on Children’s Mental Health. *Child Development*, 66, 1239-1261; Paveza, G. (1988). Risk Factors in Father-daughter Child Sexual Abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 3(3), 290-306; and several other studies.
- 10 American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on *Violence and the Family* (1996). *Violence and the family*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- 11 Hotelling, G., & Sugarman, D. (1986). An Analysis of Risk Markers in Husband to Wife Violence: The Current State of Knowledge. *Violence and Victims*, 1(2), 101-124; Silverman & Williamson, op. cit.
- 12 Silverman & Williamson, op. cit.
- 13 Doyno, S., Bowermaster, J., Meloy, R., Dutton, D., Jaffe, P., Temko, S., & Mones, P. (1999). Custody Disputes Involving Domestic Violence: Making Children’s Needs a Priority. *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, 50(2), 1-12; Hotelling & Sugarman, op. cit.
- 14 Hurley, D.J., & Jaffe, P. (1990). Children’s Observations of Violence: II. Clinical Implications for Children’s Mental Health Professionals. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 35(6), 471-476.
- 15 Jaffe, P., & Geffner, R. (1998). Child Custody Disputes and Domestic Violence: Critical Issues for Mental Health, Social Service, and Legal Professionals. In G. Holden, R. Geffner, & E. Jouriles (Eds.), *Children Exposed to Marital Violence: Theory, Research, and Applied Issues* (pp. 371-408). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association; Dutton, M.A. (1992). *Empowering and Healing the Battered Woman*. New York: Springer.
- 16 See for example Johnston, J., & Campbell, L. (1993b). Parent-child Relationships in Domestic Violence Families Disputing Custody. *Family and Conciliation Courts Review*, 31(3), 282-298. (Johnston & Campbell seem to overlook the implications of many of their own observations - see Bancroft & Silverman, op. cit., for an extended discussion.)
- 17 Hurley & Jaffe, op. cit.
- 18 Erickson, J., & Henderson, A. (1998). "Diverging Realities: Abused Women and Their Children. In J. Campbell (Ed.), *Empowering Survivors of Abuse: Health Care for Battered Women and Their Children* (pp. 138-155). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 19 Bancroft & Silverman, op. cit.
- 20 See review of studies in Heller, S., Larriue, J., D’Imperio, R., & Boris, N. (1998). Research on Resilience to Child Maltreatment: Empirical Considerations. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 23(4) 321-338.
- 21 van der Kolk, B., & McFarlane, A. (1996). The Black Hole of Trauma. In B. van der Kolk, A. McFarlane, & L. Weisaeth (Eds.), *Traumatic stress: The Effects of Overwhelming Experience on Mind, Body, and Society* (pp. 3-23). New York: Guilford.
- 22 For a detailed assessment guide, see Chapter 7 of Bancroft & Silverman, op. cit.

New Executive Director for the National Council

Judge David B. Mitchell of Baltimore, Maryland has been selected as the new executive director of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Judge Mitchell began work at the National Council on November 1, 2001.

A graduate of Columbia University School of Law, Judge Mitchell was appointed to Maryland's Eighth Judicial Circuit in 1984 and was re-elected in 1986. Although he served most recently in the Baltimore City criminal courts, from 1984 to 1995 he served as Judge-in-Charge of Baltimore's juvenile docket where his accomplishments included enlisting volunteer-advocates for children in the system, computerizing court records, and working for a new Juvenile Justice Center. His many years of work on behalf of youth and families also includes serving on the Maryland Juvenile Justice Advisory Council, 1985-92; as Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Department of

Juvenile Justice, 1987-95; and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Associated Marine Institutes, based in Tampa, Florida.

Judge Mitchell served on the National Council's Board of Trustees from 1988 to 1995. Since April, National Council past president Judge Stephen Herrell of Portland, Oregon has served as acting director. The Family Violence Department welcomes Judge Mitchell and wishes to thank Judge Herrell for his leadership during the interim.



Judge David B. Mitchell

Supervised Visitation: A Call for Materials

For a number of years, in cases of child abuse and neglect, supervised visitation has been used to facilitate visitation between non-custodial parents and their children. With the increase in awareness and knowledge of family violence and the impact that exposure to such violence has on children, judges more often are ordering supervised visitation for these families. More visitation programs are incorporating policies to address the complicated issues surrounding domestic violence cases. Screening for domestic violence, safety planning, and security are all issues that programs are facing. Each year the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody, a project of the Family Violence Department, receives hundreds of calls from practitioners, judges, and others with questions related to supervised visitation. The question that often emerges is how do we continue to protect children who have been exposed to family violence and provide safety for the battered parent,

while still fostering a "healthy" relationship between the children and the abusive parent?

The Resource Center is committed to providing to its constituents the most current, state-of-the-art information and technical assistance. If your agency facilitates supervised visitation in family violence cases, we would like to hear from you. We are collecting protocols, policies, intake forms, screening tools, and any helpful information to add to the Resource Center. Please send materials to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Attention: Sam Smith, P.O. Box 8970, Reno, Nevada 89507.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Sam at 1-800-527-3223.

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New Staff Introductions

The Family Violence Department of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is pleased to announce the arrival of seven new staff members. As the department continues to grow, with 18 full-time employees and one part-time employee, staff members are excited to welcome such a talented group to the National Council and the work of the department.

Sara Blake joined the department as an administrative assistant in the Operations and Services Division. Some of Sara's responsibilities include responding to technical assistance requests, providing general clerical support, and assisting with daily activities. Prior to this position, Sara worked as a human resources employment representative and generalist. She currently is completing a bachelor of science degree in human services from the University of Phoenix, Reno.

Laura Budge joined the department as a project coordinator. She coordinates tasks and projects of the administrative staff, assists the director and assistant directors with day-to-day activities, oversees staff travel needs, and harmonizes other organizational functions. Prior to this position, Laura worked as a meeting coordinator and facilitator. She holds an associate of arts degree from the University of Utah.

Stan Dunford-Jackson joined the department as an office assistant in the Law and Policy Division. Stan is retired from public health service and has a background in domestic violence dating back to the early 1980's when he helped found and direct a family violence shelter in Virginia. His primary responsibility is to maintain the currency of the department's domestic violence statutes database.

Marie Gonzales joined the Operations and Services Division of the department as an administrative assistant. She brings to the department 14 years of clerical experience. Marie's duties include processing purchase orders, ordering supplies, and responding to requests for technical assistance. She also is bilingual and assists staff members with calls from Spanish-speaking individuals.

Serena Hulbert, JD came to the department from Wisconsin and brings with her experience in the areas of domestic violence, family law, child protection, and treatment of abused and delinquent adolescents.

She is a staff attorney in the Law and Policy Division. Currently, Serena is working on the Model Code Implementation Project and Full Faith and Credit: Moving Forward. She also acts as an information specialist for the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody. Serena holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and philosophy from Valparaiso University and a juris doctorate from the John Marshall Law School.

Jason Oetjen joined the department as a resource specialist in the Operations and Services Division. Some of his responsibilities include updating and maintaining the library for the Resource Center, overseeing the department's website, designing and coordinating meeting materials and publications, and scheduling the department's display unit at conferences, as well as maintaining and updating the display. In addition to holding a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Nevada, Reno, Jason brings to the department four years of marketing and design experience.

David Wohler joined the department as an administrative assistant in the Law and Policy Division. His duties include legal research, resource coordination for the Greenbook Project, and general technical support. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Eastern Illinois University and is completing a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from the University of Nevada, Reno. He also takes paralegal courses at Truckee Meadows Community College.

The department also is pleased to announce that **Lauren Litton, JD** was hired as the program manager for the federal Greenbook Initiative. Lauren was the policy analyst for the Law and Policy Division before taking the position of program manager. Her new role is to coordinate the efforts of the National Technical Assistance Team in providing technical assistance to the demonstration sites and coordinate communication among the national initiative partners.



(Left to Right) Sara Blake, David Wohler, Stan Dunford-Jackson, Serena Hulbert, Laura Budge, Jason Oetjen and Marie Gonzales. Not pictured: Lauren Litton.

News Notes

Legislative Trends 2001

State legislatures are exploring new and better ways of dealing with the issue of domestic violence. In doing so, many legislatures have enacted new domestic violence laws. Last year was no exception. In 2001, nearly every state enacted some form of legislation to improve the fight against domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Some of the trends include laws enacted to:

- **make it a crime to interfere with a 911 call;**
- **improve laws related to orders of protection, including full faith and credit provisions; and**
- **keep a victim's address confidential.**

The Family Violence Department expects to publish *Family Violence: Legislative Update, Volume 7*, this spring. The 2001 edition will highlight domestic violence laws that were enacted during the year and are based on the *Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence*, a publication of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Each year the legislative updates are used to revise the department's statutes database, which is also available on the department's website at <http://www.nationalcouncilfvd.org>.

Grants for Supervised Visitation

The Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Department of Justice, is pleased to announce the release of the web-based Toolkit to End Violence Against Women, a product of the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women. You can find the Toolkit on the internet at <http://www.toolkit.ncjrs.org>.

It is hoped that this new resource will provide the guidance necessary to assist communities in their efforts to end violence against women. For more information about violence against women issues and grant opportunities, visit the Violence Against Women Office website at <http://ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo>.

Toolkit to End Violence Against Women

The Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Department of Justice, anticipates making \$15 million in grants for supervised visitation.

The purpose of this grant program is to provide supervised and safe exchange of children by and between parents in situations involving domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Eligible grant applicants will be required to collaborate with non-profit domestic violence and/or sexual assault organizations and courts.

The grant announcement will be available on-line at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/vawo> in March 2002. For more information, contact VAWO at (202) 307-6026.

Women of Color Network Leadership Training Institute

The Women of Color Network (WOCN) sponsored its first national Leadership Training Institute on November 5-7, 2001, in Miami, Florida, in conjunction with the National Network to End Domestic Violence's national meeting. The institute brought together approximately 80 activists of color from around the country both to define and develop strategies that support culturally appropriate services and to build a network of mentors and trainers who can provide on-going technical assistance to individuals and programs that are engaged in developing and providing culturally appropriate services for battered and sexually assaulted women of color in their communities.

For more information about the WOCN or the Leadership Training Institutes, please contact the WOCN at (614) 995-1429 or by e-mail to drbrown@gw.odh.state.oh.us.



Beckie Masaki: An Interview (concluded)

As service providers we need to do as much as possible to push forward the attention and the resources for children's programs within the scope of our own services. It is a challenge not just for service providers, but for everybody. There needs to be more basic services and attention brought to the needs of children and their battered mothers—together.

FVD staff: What do you think the field of domestic violence or services for battered women will look in five years?

Masaki: My hope is that as domestic violence service providers we expand our horizons to understand that we are helping more than just the battered women with their domestic violence situation. We are part of a larger picture or piece of social justice and need to make connections with the other organizations or movements such as those working to end poverty, racism and homophobia. In this stage of our development around domestic violence, if we don't expand or contribute to a broader picture of promoting peace and social justice then we become or stay isolated. To act in isolation is not helpful because we then are not speaking to the integrated issues that are a part of the real lives of battered women and their children. If we really are going to end domestic violence we have to be part of the bigger picture.

SYNERGY

The Newsletter of the Resource Center on Domestic Violence: Child Protection and Custody

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