

The Green Pages

A publication of The Greenbook Project
Grafton County, New Hampshire



The
Greenbook
Project
Demonstration
Sites

Grafton
County,
New
Hampshire

El Paso
County,
Colorado

San
Francisco,
California

Santa Clara
County,
California

St. Louis
County,
Missouri

Lane County,
Oregon

The Greenbook Project

The Greenbook Project is a federal initiative designed to bring together the court system, child protective services and domestic violence agencies to better address the needs of families when there is the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. Grafton County was among six demonstration sites in the country selected to participate in the three-year project. Greenbook is the nickname for the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges' publication, *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice*. Greenbook gets its name from the cover of the publication, which is green.

GREEN NEWS...

The Greenbook Online

The national Greenbook partnership will soon have a new online resource for information on the federal and local projects:

www.thegreenbook.info.

The website will feature a variety of useful materials for Greenbook participants, including:

- Information on the various project partners
- A downloadable file of *The Greenbook*
- Descriptions of the six Greenbook demonstration sites
- Resource lists on Greenbook-related subjects
- Press releases and other media materials
- Answers to frequently asked questions about Greenbook
- Links to related websites

Participants will be able to

access Grafton County Greenbook information, including a calendar of upcoming meetings and events. "We see this website as another way to provide information to interested individuals about this complex project," said Gina Apicelli, Director of the local initiative. "This resource not only gives a better sense of the scope of the initiative across sites, but provides valuable information about local efforts," said Apicelli.

The website is sponsored by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the US Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services.

Batterer Accountability Conference

The Greenbook Project's Batterer Accountability Conference held in June

received high marks from the service providers, attorneys, advocates, child protective social workers, judges, court personnel, police officers, probation officers and other individuals who attended. Eighty people attended the conference, which featured David Adams, Ed.D of Emerge in Cambridge, MA, Scott Hampton of Ending the Violence in Dover, and Linda Griebisch of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The conference, emceed by Littleton Police Chief Cam Brown, addressed batterer behavior, effective intervention, new state Batterer Intervention Standards, and community efforts for increasing batterer accountability.

*The Greenbook Project recognizes that national statistics indicate women represent 95% of domestic violence victims. The project addresses all adult victims of domestic violence and their abused and neglected children.

Project Update...

Cross Systems Training

The Greenbook's Cross Training and Education Subcommittee sponsored a day-long training on September 27, 2002 at the The Mountain Club on Loon in Lincoln.

Representatives from DCYF, Grafton County Family and District Courts, CASA, the four crisis centers serving the county and New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence presented on how each system approaches child abuse/neglect and domestic violence cases.

The training, while general in nature to give all participants the same working vocabulary of the systems, is expected to form a basis for future effective collaborations on behalf of abused/neglected children and battered women.



The Team Concept

The Greenbook Project's primary partners have formed teams to address their system-specific goals. These teams have prioritized their goals and are in the process of exploring how to achieve them. "The teams were an outgrowth of the formation of the Project's Work Group," said Honorable Edwin W. Kelly, Project Chair. The Work Group has begun to address cross-systems' goals, such as increasing

the consistent and effective use of the Domestic Violence Program Specialist. "We feel it is important to come together as a system to discuss certain issues first, then bring our collective thoughts to the cross systems' discussions," said Grafton County Supervisory Judge Susan B. Carbon. "This allows us to determine what our current practices are and what we envision the needed changes will be before we gather input and insight at the multi-disciplinary table," said

Carbon. The Court, DCYF and Coalition/Crisis Center Teams are drawing upon the expertise within their own systems to flesh out the issues from all angles before moving forward. "We always come back to the basic question: will this change improve the lives of families experiencing the co-occurrence of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence?" she said.

The teams are meeting on an as-needed basis with support from Greenbook staff and resources.

Teamwork

The recently-formed systems' teams have been meeting to determine which issues they want to focus over the next 12 months.

Court

The Court Team has identified "increase information sharing among and between the courts," as one of its top goals. The Team also plans to address improving the assessment of the risk of co-occurrence of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence.

DCYF

The DCYF Team has identified "implement separate service plans for victims and batterers emphasizing batterer accountability for

responsible parenting" as one of its priorities.

Crisis Centers/Coalition

The Crisis Centers/Coalition Team has identified "increasing the consistent and effective use of the Domestic Violence Program Specialist" as one of its top areas of focus.

Work Group

This multidisciplinary team has been addressing the Project goal of "increasing the consistent and effective use of the Domestic Violence Program Specialist (DVPS)." The Work Group is charged with addressing goals that involve more than one of the Project's primary systems.

Across Sites

Representatives from each of the primary systems involved in Greenbook have participated in system-specific meetings with their counterparts from the other six Greenbook sites over the last several months. These retreats and toolboxes have allowed those involved in the Project to share the successes and challenges of working with the other partners on the issues of co-occurrence. Judges addressed ethical considerations, advocates discussed mandated domestic violence services, and child protective services focused on the sites' challenges to date.

Research and Evaluation Update

The Greenbook Project's Local Research Team has completed the analysis of information obtained through focus groups with child protection social workers, domestic violence advocates and interviews with Domestic Violence Program Specialists. The focus group and interview information provides one segment of qualitative data about the current practices and views of those working directly with victims of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence in Grafton County. The Project's teams and committees are using the information as they work toward the various goals of the Project.

Local Research Partner Kathy Kopiec said caution should be exercised when looking at the results. "It is important to understand that focus groups provide information from a small,

non-representative sample, however, they also can illustrate some important points," Kopiec said. "The results can verify what the systems already sensed, but also give new information to help shape proposed changes," she said.

For DCYF's practices in Grafton County, the results address child protection social workers' (CPSW) experiences and perceptions of the following topics:

- Assessment of domestic violence
- Safety planning
- Assessment of parental protective efforts
- Neglect petitions for failure to protect
- Mandated domestic violence services

For crisis centers' practices in Grafton County, the results address advocates' experiences and perceptions of the

following topics:

- Safety planning
Impact of domestic violence exposure on children
- Protocols for informing victims about the effects of domestic violence on children
- Knowledge and awareness of child abuse and neglect
- Mandated domestic violence services

Coming Soon... A similar analysis of interviews with judges is underway and expected to be completed this fall. The Evaluation Team also will be conducting focus groups with women who have been involved with any one of the three systems; DCYF and court file reviews; and gathering data on child abuse and neglect and domestic violence cases.

The local research and evaluation effort is being conducted in conjunction with the national evaluation, which will examine issues common to all six Greenbook demonstration sites.

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Greenbook's National Policy- Making Body...GPAC

Grace Mattern, Director of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, was recently named as the third co-chair of Greenbook Policy Advisory Committee. Mattern, representing the advocacy community, joins the chairs from child protective services and the judiciary.

The Greenbook Policy Advisory Committee, or GPAC, is made up of leaders from the judiciary and child abuse and neglect and domestic violence fields from around the country, including representation from the six Greenbook demonstration sites. Judge Carbon is Grafton County's representative on the Committee and serves on the Committee's Children Exposed to Violence Subcommittee.

We've Moved!