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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.

Batterer Accountability Conference

The Greenbook Project will be hosting its first significant county-wide training in June in West Lebanon. The topic will be batterer accountability.

The conference will feature Dr. David Adams, Co-Director of EMERGE of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Founded in 1977, EMERGE was the first program for abusive men in the nation and is a national training center on domestic violence and batterer interventions. Throughout its existence, EMERGE has been a leading voice challenging men to take responsibility for stopping male violence.

Dr. Adams will explore a number of batterer-related issues including identifying battering behavior, batterers' excuse-making strategies

and how to recognize them, batterer intervention programs, challenges in intervening with batterers, and emerging national issues.

For the New Hampshire perspective on these issues, Dr. Scott Hampton of Ending the Violence, a batterer intervention program in Dover, New Hampshire, will share some of his experiences in working with men who batter. Dr. Hampton, the Chair of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence Batters Intervention Subcommittee, will also discuss the state's new Batterer Intervention Standards.

Greenbook Project Executive Director Gina Apicelli said this is a unique opportunity for those who work on the issues of domestic

violence to hear more about the role batterer intervention programs can have in holding batterers accountable. "One of the goals identified by Greenbook participants is to explore how to increase batterer accountability," said Apicelli. "Batterers intervention programs are seen as one area where batterers can be held responsible for their violence."

Greenbook participants, law enforcement, judges, court personnel, domestic violence advocates, social workers, attorneys and social service providers will be invited to the conference, which will be held on Thursday, June 20, 2002 at The Fireside Inn in West Lebanon.

The conference is being organized by the Project's Batterer Accountability Subcommittee.

*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...

Calendar of Upcoming Events...

May 1

DCYF Community Forum
Littleton District Office

May 8

DCYF Community Forum
Claremont District Office

May 16-17

DCYF Annual Conference
Sheraton Hotel, Nashua

May 24

The Greenbook Project's Work Group Meeting
The Whole Village, Plymouth

May 30-31

8th Annual Conference of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence
Mount Washington Hotel, Bretton Woods

June 6

The Greenbook Project's Executive Committee Meeting
Concord District Court, Concord

June 20

The Greenbook Project's Batterer Accountability Conference
The Fireside Inn, West Lebanon

The Cross Training and Education Subcommittee

The Advisory Council's Cross Training and Education Subcommittee is charged with developing the plan to provide opportunities for Greenbook participants to learn more about each other's work on domestic violence and child abuse and neglect issues. The plan includes small group and one-to-one job shadowing experiences and open houses. The

small group job shadowing is expected to begin this summer while the open houses will be scheduled for October in honor of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The group is also designing trainings for the Council to learn more about the three primary systems involved in Greenbook: Grafton County District and Family Courts, the Division for Children, Youth and Families, NH Coalition Against Domestic and

Sexual Violence and the four domestic and sexual violence crisis centers that provide services in the county. The first session is addressing cultural considerations while a full day of presentations on the systems will be held in the fall.

The Cross Training and Education Subcommittee is comprised of members of the Advisory Council who represent the three systems as well as the schools, probation and parole and service providers.

Cultural Considerations

Among The Greenbook Project's goals is to increase the cultural competency of the three primary systems. The Project has contracted with Anthony Poekert, a cultural competency consultant, to assist in the work.

Poekert has experience exploring the topic in Grafton County: he has assisted CARE-NH in its effort to become more aware of cultural issues when working with families.

The Project will be interweaving cultural considerations throughout

its trainings. While there is no one definition, the process of moving toward cultural competency involves five key elements:

- Awareness and acceptance of difference
- Awareness of one's own cultural values
- Understanding the dynamics of difference
- Development of cultural knowledge
- The ability to adapt practice to the cultural context of the client.

Poekert encourages people to learn about the difference between

cultural competence and political correctness.

"Cultural competence is not about being politically correct, said Poekert. "It is about holding each human being in deep respect and validating each person's values, traditions and behaviors," he said. "People tend to get caught up in the words they use, worrying about offending someone. In doing so, they often take the path of least resistance, which is to say nothing at all." He emphasizes that in Greenbook, every voice is vital when it comes to improving systems' response to families experiencing domestic violence and child abuse.

Research and Evaluation

As part of The Greenbook Project's research and evaluation component, Local Research Partner Kathy Kopiec and Research Consultant Glenda Kaufman Kantor have been conducting focus groups with domestic violence advocates and DCYF social workers.

The focus groups are being used to gather information about issues central to Greenbook, including views on working with families when there is domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, how crisis centers, DCYF and the courts are currently collaborating and service gaps in the community.

For the next step in the process, the research team will be holding "key informant" interviews with Grafton County Family and District Court Judges and Domestic Violence Program Specialists (DVPS) over the next several weeks.

The focus groups and interviews are part of an overall evaluation plan designed to measure the effectiveness of the systems' changes made as a result of the Project. The team will also use data from the three systems, surveys and focus groups with survivors of domestic violence.

This baseline information

will be used to compare to information obtained at certain points throughout the life of the Project.

In addition to the local evaluation, Grafton County is participating in a national evaluation that will examine issues common to all six Greenbook demonstration sites. The national evaluation team is working with the local team to coordinate efforts.

The Greenbook Project will present information on the development of the local evaluation plan, including the goal-setting process, at the 8th Statewide Conference on Domestic and Sexual Violence at the Mount Washington Hotel in Bretton Woods, May 30-31.



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What is an IRB?

An Institutional Review Board (IRB) is a group that reviews research involving human subjects.* An IRB ensures certain protections for people participating in research, including dignity and respect, voluntary participation, fairness in the selection of participants and protect against such risks as disclosure of private information. IRB review is required for any federally funded research involving human subjects. The Greenbook Project's focus groups and interviews have been approved by an IRB.

*A human subject is defined as a person about whom an investigator conducting research obtains data through interaction with the person or obtains identifiable private information about the person.