

The Green Pages

A publication of The Greenbook Project
Grafton County, New Hampshire



The
Greenbook
Project
Demonstration
Sites

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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-to-five year project. Greenbook is the nickname for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' publication, *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice*. The publication and more information about the Project are available at [www.thegreenbook.info](http://www.thegreenbook.info).

### Green News...

#### **Greenbook All-Sites Conference**

The Grafton County Greenbook Project was well represented at the 2003 Greenbook Initiative All-Sites Conference, *Dialogues for Sustainable Change*, in Eugene, Oregon May 14-16. One representative from each of the primary partners joined staff members at the conference, which featured national experts in the areas of child abuse, domestic violence, collaboration, systems' reform and cultural issues.

The conference gave participants the opportunity to interact with their peers in child protection, the courts and domestic violence agencies from the six sites across the country. One of the highlights of the conference was an announcement made by

Joan Ohl, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families and Diane Stuart, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women. Ohl and Stuart announced their agencies' commitment to funding the six Greenbook sites for an additional two years. The funding is expected to extend the Grafton County Project until the summer of 2006.

Other conference highlights included a moving presentation by Zulema (Ruby) White of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. White related her childhood experiences with domestic violence and child abuse.

Two key figures in the *Nicholson v. Williams* case in New York City, Attorney Jill Zuccardy and Sharline Nicholson,

shared their stories about the landmark class action lawsuit which has prompted changes in the City's child protection system. Zuccardy emphasized the importance of initiatives like the Greenbook, which concentrate on systems' collaboration and reform.

Consultant Karen Ray provided valuable information on "the nimble collaboration," the title of her new book. She writes, "When you create a nimble collaboration...you stop thinking of the people you serve in terms of their experience with you; instead, you think of them in terms of their experience with the system." Ray sprinkled humor throughout her presentation, allowing participants to identify with common issues that arise in collaborations.

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.

# The Greenbook Project

## Greenbook Systems' Team Updates...

### **Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence Training**

The three DCYF District Offices involved in The Greenbook Project hosted trainings in May and June for social workers on children's exposure to domestic violence. The training consisted of a videotaped session by Dr. Jeff Edleson, who presented in Plymouth in December. Dr. Scott Hampton led a discussion after the video, with an emphasis on practice implications for New Hampshire. Some discussion points included focusing on the safety of the adult victim and the children and tips for interviewing perpetrators to increase accountability within the child protection system.

Department of Health and Human Services trainer Karen McCall of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV) assisted in fielding questions from the group. The training is part of DCYF's comprehensive training plan to address its Project goal to increase child protection's recognition, understanding and response to domestic violence.

### **Court**

#### *Walking a case through the system*

The Court Team has determined the most effective way to approach its system's goals is to follow domestic violence and child abuse/neglect cases through a step-by-step process. The Project will review the *Protocols Relative to Abuse and Neglect Cases and Permanency Planning* and the *Domestic Violence District Court Protocol* through a "Greenbook" lens. The objective is to determine at what points

in the court process the court may consider new approaches in cases involving the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse/neglect. Among the first steps is for the Project to research mechanisms the court may want to use to identify co-occurrence cases. If a co-occurrence case is identified, it could follow a track that addresses issues particular to these types of cases. The Court Team will be seeking input from the DCYF and Crisis Centers/Coalition Teams on proposed practice changes.

### *Information sharing*

The Court Team has developed a guide to determine what information the Grafton County Family and District Courts should have from within their own buildings at various points in domestic violence and child abuse/neglect cases. The process was recently implemented at the four Family Division sites in the county. It is designed to provide safety and consistency among court orders involving individual families.

### **DCYF**

#### *Attorney training*

DCYF attorneys from across the state attended a full-day training June 27, 2003 in Plymouth on domestic violence issues in child protection cases. The *DCYF Attorneys' Toolbox for Child Protection Cases Involving Domestic Violence* was co-sponsored by DCYF and The Greenbook Project. Attorney Leigh Goodmark of the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law was the featured speaker for the conference, which focused on the dynamics of domestic violence, the effects of domestic violence on children and linking information to practice. DCYF Director Nancy Rollins, Dr. Scott Hampton of Ending the

Violence and Karen McCall of the NHCADSV also presented at the training.

### **Crisis Centers/Coalition**

#### *Safety Planning*

The Crisis Centers/Coalition Team has developed a philosophical statement on safety planning. The statement is designed to set the stage for the next step in addressing the goal to "enhance victim-centered safety planning and enhance child-centered safety planning." The statement reads:

"As advocates for victims of domestic violence, we believe in victim-centered safety planning. Victim-centered safety planning starts from the victim's perspective, integrating the advocate's knowledge

and resources into the victim's framework. It is an ongoing process that involves looking at danger indicators in a family, which include more than threats of immediate physical harm, such as threats to long term physical and emotional well-being. Victim-centered safety planning values the thoughts, feelings and experiences of the victim and formulates strategies for prevention of further violence. The victim is the decision-maker, the one who knows best, and the one with the power."

The Team will be developing a packet on safety planning that includes information for advocates to use when working with victims as well as information for victims to safety plan with their children.

# The Greenbook Project

## INFORMATION SHARING



Consultant Olga Trujillo, JD (left) and Lonna Davis (right) of the Family Violence Prevention Fund facilitated multi-disciplinary meetings on information sharing in January and April 2003. Trujillo and Davis have been working with the Courts, Division for Children, Youth and Families, CASA, NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and the four crisis centers serving Grafton County to develop principles and mechanisms for effective information sharing. Recent progress on this issue has included agreement on several operating principles to serve as guidance for specific information sharing practices among the systems. Work Group members will be gathering input from within their systems for each agreed upon operating principle. Specific steps to implement the principles into practice are being formulated for review and consideration by the multidisciplinary Work Group, with corresponding input from each system to follow.



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Visit the Website for:

- A Calendar of Events for The Grafton County Greenbook Project
- 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