

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

What is 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. National statistics indicate 95% of the victims of domestic violence are women while 5% are men. The Greenbook Project addresses all adult victims of domestic violence and their abused and neglected children.

Grafton County was among six demonstration sites in the country selected to participate in the three-year initiative. Executive Director Gina Apicelli said the project offers Grafton County a unique opportunity to take stock of how it is currently addressing the issue and what can be done to improve upon current practices. "We've traditionally looked at child abuse and neglect and domestic violence as distinct issues when in fact, studies show that in up to 60% of cases where there is domestic

violence, there is child abuse and neglect and vice versa. This project will allow us to take a more holistic approach to violence in families," said Apicelli.

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.

Goal-setting

While The Greenbook Project Executive Committee has set its many goals for The Greenbook Project, they center around one principle: long-term safety for women* and children. Among the many goals:

Community

- Increase community groups' recognition and understanding of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence
- Increase effective information sharing/

case collaboration

Court System

- Increase the ability of courts to identify cases where there is a co-incidence of domestic violence and child abuse

- Improve monitoring of batterers across systems

DCYF

- Improve assessment of domestic violence in child protection cases

- Reduce incidence and duration of out of home placements for abused/neglected children of battered women

Crisis Centers

- Improve access to domestic violence and related community services
- Improve domestic violence staff's recognition, understanding and response to child abuse and neglect

*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.

If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea.

*---A. de St. Exupery
The Little Prince*

Collaboration

The Greenbook Project has three primary partners; the Division for Children, Youth and Families, Grafton County Family and District Courts, and the domestic violence advocacy network. Community based organizations and interested citizens also are represented on the Project's Advisory Council.

The organizations

represented on the 40-member Advisory Council include the courts, DCYF, domestic violence organizations, survivors of domestic violence and child abuse/neglect, law enforcement, schools, mental health, medical, legislators and other family service providers.

The Council has engaged in a series of discussions about the goals for the Project, how to work

effectively with each other to benefit families and cross training and education about the roles people serve in working with families.

In addition to attending quarterly meetings, Advisory Council members are serving on subcommittees and assisting with data collection and information gathering within their own organizations.

Research and Evaluation

The Greenbook Project has a research and evaluation component at the national and local level.

At the national level, Caliber Associates has been conducting telephone surveys and interviews at each of the Greenbook sites; Grafton County, New Hampshire, El Paso County, Colorado, Lane County, Oregon,

San Francisco County, California, Santa Clara County, California, and St. Louis County, Missouri. The National Evaluation Team will be selecting goals common to all six sites to evaluate over the life of this project.

At the local level, Local Research Partner Kathy Kopiec and Research Consultant Glenda Kaufman Kantor have

outlined the plan for the research that will be conducted in Grafton County. The research will include surveys, focus groups with consumers and employees who work directly with families, one on one interviews with key stakeholders and data review. The team will be evaluating the effectiveness of the systems' changes made as a result of the Project.

"I want to end my career someday knowing I made positive change within the three systems so that battered women and children can truly be safe against violence."

--Advisory Council

The Greenbook Project Contact Information

The Greenbook Project
The Whole Village Family Resource Center
258 Highland Street
Plymouth, NH 03264
(603) 536-7599
nhgreenbook@cyberportal.net

Gina Apicelli, Executive Director
Kathy Kopiec, Local Research Partner
Katja Fox, Program Coordinator
Lesley Frame, Research/Administrative Assistant
Glenda Kaufman Kantor, Research Consultant

Project Update....

Batterer Accountability

One goal set forth by The Greenbook Project is to increase batterer accountability.

A subcommittee is expected to be formed to work on this goal. The group will consist of, at a minimum, representatives from the court, DCYF, crisis centers, batterers' intervention programs, law enforcement and the Department of Corrections.

The first step for the group will be to define the term, "batterer accountability." This will be accomplished by holding in depth

discussions among members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Council. Areas to be considered in the definition of accountability include jail time, participation in batterers intervention and parenting programs, restitution, child support, drug and alcohol treatment and more.

Two of the Greenbook recommendations that Grafton County has set out to implement include:

* Intervention programs for batterers should reexamine the contents of their procedures, policies

and curricula to ensure that both child and adult safety and well-being are integrated into programmatic activities

* Batterer intervention programs, working collaboratively with law enforcement, courts, child protection agencies and domestic violence agencies should take leadership to improve the coordination and monitoring of legal and social service interventions for perpetrators in order to enhance safety, stability and well-being for adult and child victims.

Batterer:

Someone whose behavior reflects an on-going pattern of coercive control involving various forms of:

- (a) Intimidation
- (b) Psychological abuse
- (c) Intrusive and inflated self-entitlement
- (d) Physical abuse

--Fernando Mederos, ED.D.

Primary Partner Update...

DCYF: Structured Decision-Making

The Division of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) has implemented a new tool to improve the consistency in the decision-making process and to improve child and family outcomes. After a year of extensive research, DCYF has chosen to use the Structured Decision-Making Model (SDM).

DCYF Director Nancy Rollins said, "Frontline social workers and supervisors make critical case decisions

surrounding the safety of children during the course of abuse and neglect assessments. The goal is to promote and support a structured decision-making approach to case practice, which complements professional judgment."

The SDM Model has several objectives:

- *To introduce structure to critical decision points in the child welfare system
- *To increase the

consistency and validity of decision-making

*To improve the effectiveness of DCYF

The assessment tools have been designed and integrated into DCYF's computer program. Staff members have been trained and the model's implementation date is December 15, 2001. A SDM expert core team will conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the new tool.

Goal...

To promote and support a structured decision-making approach to case practice, which complements professional judgment.