

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-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...

#### **Batterers Intervention Standards formally introduced to service providers**

Batterer intervention service providers from throughout the state recently attended a two day conference in Plymouth designed to introduce the NH Batterers Intervention Standards. The conference was co-sponsored by The Greenbook Project and the Batterer Intervention Subcommittee of the NH Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

The Standards address critical components of batterer intervention programs, including program goals, content, administration and evaluation. The providers were joined by domestic and sexual violence crisis center advocates as well as representatives from

the NH Department of Corrections.

The Batterer Intervention Subcommittee drafted the Standards to create minimum standards of practice, develop a mechanism for monitoring the level of services and encourage the development of high quality batterer intervention services as a component of a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Subcommittee Chair Scott Hampton said the Standards are a beginning, not an end. "Batterer intervention programs are one facet of holding batterers accountable for their actions. The programs cannot work in isolation, however, and need the full support of the community," he said.

Guest speaker Doug Gaudette of Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA told conference attendees

that when batterers get together in a group, they are forced to look at their behavior. "It is crucial in our work with men that we help them understand that their behavior has consequences, both intended and unintended. Men batter because the system is not yet holding them accountable," said Gaudette, who is the director of the Family Safety Project, where he directs the hospital's batterer intervention program and programs for children who witness domestic violence.

The conference is one of several steps the Project has taken to meet its goal of increasing batterer accountability. The Project plans to hold regional forums in Grafton County this spring to ensure that crucial community linkages are made among service providers.

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

## Working Together...

### Children's Exposure to Domestic Violence

The Greenbook Project teamed with the NH Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect to present a training with noted researcher Jeffrey L. Edleson, who is a Professor at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and Director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. The December 2002 conference drew a cross section of professionals from across the state who learned more about current research findings, systems' responses to children's exposure and NH laws. The participants also explored ways in which their systems can address the complicated issue.

The Project's Work Group will be building on the foundation that was laid at the conference to develop a continuum of community responses for families with children exposed to domestic violence.

For more information about research in the field of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect, visit [www.mincava.umn.edu](http://www.mincava.umn.edu).

### ...Across systems

#### *DVPS Position*

The Project's Executive Committee has formally adopted policy recommendations to increase the effective and consistent use of the Domestic Violence Program Specialist (DVPS). The DVPS is a crisis center advocate who works within the child protection district offices. The policies address the referral process and training. They were developed by the Project's Work Group with input

from the three systems' teams, utilizing several sources of information, including the results from focus groups and interviews with DVPSs, crisis center advocates and DCYF social workers.

#### *Information Sharing*

The Work Group has started the process of addressing the cross systems' goal of increasing effective information sharing among the systems. After an "issue-spotting" session, the Group

engaged in a facilitated discussion with the assistance of Olga Trujillo, a consultant and formerly with the US Department of Justice, and Lonna Davis of the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Utilizing a case scenario, the Group explored how information is shared among the courts, DCYF, crisis centers and CASA, with whom and when.

Trujillo and Davis will be returning to New Hampshire for a full day meeting in April to continue their work with the Group.

### ...Within systems

#### *Court*

The Court Team has developed a draft guide for Grafton County courts to use when addressing what "in-house" information is needed at various points in domestic violence and child abuse and neglect cases. The guide is part of the court's effort toward its goal of increasing information sharing among and between the courts. The Team will be getting input on its proposal from others within the court system as well as the other partners in the Project.

The Court Team also will be developing a judges' benchcard to assist in the crafting of visitation orders in domestic violence and child abuse and neglect cases.

#### *DCYF*

The DCYF Team has been working on various aspects of its goal to increase child protection's recognition, understanding and response to domestic violence. The Project has surveyed child protection service workers at the Laconia, Littleton and Claremont District Offices on their preferred method of delivery for the training. This will serve as a guide for advanced trainings on children's exposure to domestic violence.

The Project also is assisting in a statewide training for DCYF attorneys on issues involving domestic violence in child protection cases. Attorney Leigh Goodmark of the American Bar Association will be presenting to the attorneys in June.

#### *Crisis Centers/Coalition*

To address its goal to improve supportive interventions for domestic violence victims who abuse their children or whose children are being abused, the Crisis Centers/Coalition Team developed a grant proposal to hire "traveling" therapists. The therapists would provide counseling services and parenting support to victims of domestic violence with children as well as counseling services to children who have been exposed to domestic violence. The NH Department of Justice submitted the grant on behalf of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence to the Office on Violence Against Women last month.

# The Green Pages

## Research and Evaluation Update

### *Focus Groups and Interviews*

The Greenbook Project's Local Research Partners have embarked on the next phase of their evaluation of the Initiative. Kathy Kopiec and Glenda Kaufman Kantor have been holding focus groups with battered mothers and interviewing mothers who have been involved in the child protection system. They have been asking mothers about their experiences with the courts, DCYF and crisis centers.

### *File Reviews*

The Researchers are conducting DCYF and court file reviews to learn more about certain aspects of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect cases that will affect the future work of the Project. The current reviews are designed to capture baseline (pre-Greenbook) data on practices in co-occurrence cases.

### *National Evaluation*

The National Evaluation Team (NET), in conjunction with the Local Research Partners, will be conducting a Direct Service Worker survey in the coming weeks.

In February, NET liaison Richard Wright of EDC in Boston, MA will be making his fourth site visit to interview various stakeholders to assess the Project's progress.

### *Judicial Report*

The Local Research Partners have issued a report, *Results from Interviews with Judges and Court Staff*. Among other findings, the results suggest a need for updated lists of available community resources; and increased communication between the courts and batterers intervention providers and between the courts and supervised visitation centers.

### *Informing the Work*

The various committees and teams involved in The Greenbook Project have been using the two reports issued by the Local Research Partners to inform their activities as they work toward the Project's goals. For example, the Crisis Centers/Coalition Team drafted a grant proposal partially as a result of the information provided by social workers, DVPSs and crisis center advocates about the need for specialized mental health services for domestic violence victims and their children. The DCYF Team looked at training needs identified by child protection service workers. The Court Team took notice of the judges' interviews in which they identified visitation orders as the most difficult part of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect cases.

The Project will continue to utilize these valuable qualitative data generated by the Local Research Partners throughout its program activities.

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## Technical Assistance

The Greenbook Project is fortunate to have access to leading experts in the field of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. This so-called "technical assistance" has ranged from telephone consultations with representatives from the National Technical Assistance Team; facilitation at Greenbook meetings by Lonnie Weiss, Lonna Davis, Dena Huff and Olga Trujillo; and presentations at Greenbook conferences in Grafton County by David Adams of EMERGE in Cambridge, MA., Researcher Jeff Edleson of Minnesota, and Batterer Intervention Specialist Doug Gaudette of the Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA. The National Technical Assistance Team consists of representatives from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, American Public Human Services Association and the Family Violence Prevention Fund.

*The Greenbook Project is supported by Grant No. 2001-WE-VX-K002 awarded by the US Department of Justice*