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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 is among six demonstration sites in the country selected to participate in the 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 welcomes new director**

The Greenbook Project has a new Project Director. Ruth Houtte, a 17 year veteran of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services, started her new position at the beginning of April.

Houtte replaced Gina Apicelli, Esq., who was named Family Division Administrator for the state court system. Apicelli is not going too far from the Project—she is now a member of the Court Team and will participate in cross systems efforts to improve systems' response to families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.

Apicelli said her ability to stay involved in the

Project was important to her. "I was privileged to work with individuals who not only are committed to improving their system's policies and practices around these issues, but have committed a substantial part of their professional careers and personal lives to addressing this prevalent social problem," she said. "So although it was a difficult decision to leave the Project, I am confident it will have a lasting, positive impact on families in Grafton County and beyond."

Houtte most recently developed and supervised the Domestic Violence Unit of the Lowell office of Massachusetts Department of Social Services. A few of the many collaborative efforts Ruth has been part of in recent years include the development of a

Domestic Violence Resource Center with the Lowell Police Department, the development of a substance abuse manual for DSS staff, and the review of domestic violence proposals for contract awards for children who witness domestic violence and shelters serving battered women with substance abuse issues. "I am pleased and honored to join Greenbook. I hope to use my skills and experience to further the goals of the Project," she stated. "This is important work that is considered to be cutting edge. I'm looking forward to being a part of it."

Houtte has spent her first few months meeting with the Project's participants and immersing herself in all of the ongoing activities.

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...

### Co-Occurrence Protocols for CASA of NH

As a result of its involvement with The Greenbook Project, CASA of NH has decided to develop statewide protocols on how to address cases that involve the co-occurrence of child abuse and neglect and domestic violence. A multi-disciplinary committee made up of representatives from the Project are drafting the protocols, which are believed to be the first for the nationwide organization. The protocols address the identification of and response to domestic violence, safety planning, information sharing and community resources. Members of the committee include Bonnie Herrick, Linda Dunn, Jerry Larson and Patty Miller of CASA, Sarah Sutherland of Voices Against Violence, Pipp Wiese and Michelle Rosenthal of DCYF, Gina Apicelli of the Family Division, and Greenbook staff members Ruth Houtte and Katja Fox.

The protocols will undergo a comprehensive review process prior to being implemented.

### Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF)

#### *Case Staffings*

The three Greenbook-involved DCYF district offices—Claremont, Laconia and Littleton—have piloted a case staffing process. The staffings examine a case involving the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect that can be at any stage in the child protective process. A child protective service worker (CPSW) who would like assistance in approaches to consider taking in the case

### Court

#### *Co-Occurrence Considerations for Judges*

The Greenbook Court Team has been developing guidelines for judges to consider when addressing child protection and civil domestic violence protective order cases involving the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. The guide covers such issues as children's exposure to domestic violence, the role of the Domestic Violence Program Specialist,

presents to the District Office Supervisor, assessment and family service staff, the Domestic Violence Program Specialist, and a consultant on the dynamics of battering. Group members spend 90 minutes exploring different aspects of the situation, including barriers to progress and ideas on how to break through them. DCYF hopes to launch the case staffings statewide after providing training on batterer accountability and children's exposure to domestic violence provide the baseline knowledge that lays the groundwork

offender accountability, and visitation.

The guide is expected to be accompanied by a benchcard that will include practical tools for the court to use when facing the complexities of co-occurrence cases.

### Crisis Centers/Coalition

#### *Children's Needs*

The four Greenbook-involved crisis centers and the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence have been focusing on how their programs may better address the needs of

for the staffings.

### Cross Systems Mandated Services

The Project's partners are in the process of exploring the topic of mandated services, which is defined as ordering victims of domestic violence, through DCYF case plans and/or court orders, to seek crisis center services. Crisis center services are free, confidential and voluntary, making the issue of mandated services complicated when addressing co-occurrence cases.

children. The agencies have been working with Children's Advocacy Coordinator Amy Torchia of the Vermont Network Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

A full-day workshop was held in January 2004 to explore the full range of steps that can be taken to assist children of victims of domestic violence. Since that time, the crisis centers have held meetings with their advocates to talk about their experiences in working with children of victims.

## THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VISITS THE GREENBOOK PROJECT



Diane Stuart (front row, fourth from the left), Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, conducted a site visit at the Grafton County Greenbook Project on May 19, 2004. During the visit, Ms. Stuart met with representatives from the Project's partners to discuss changes that have been made in policies and practice as a result of their involvement in the Project. Among those who had the opportunity to share their efforts to assist families experiencing the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect were (back row from l-r) Greenbook Local Research Partner Kathy Kopiec, Linda Dunn of CASA, Jaye Olmstead of Voices Against Violence, Pipp Wiese of DCYF-Littleton, Greenbook staff member Katja Fox. Front row: Shelly Golden of Voices Against Violence, Michelle Rosenthal of DCYF, Suzanne Moberly of The Support Center at Burch House, Stuart, and Greenbook Project Director Ruth Houtte.

Earlier in the day, Stuart met at the Plymouth Courthouse with Grafton Family Division Supervisory Judge Susan B. Carbon, Director Grace Mattern of the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence Intervention Coordinator Michelle Rosenthal of DCYF, Attorney Betsy Paine of the NH District Court, and Greenbook staff members.

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# [www.thegreenbook.info](http://www.thegreenbook.info)

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

# The Greenbook Project

## The Greenbook Teams...

The three systems' teams are made up of representatives from each of the primary partners. Each team also draws upon vital members in their organization for input and expertise. The teams meet on an as-needed basis, usually every six weeks or so. Their role is to work on Project goals that have been set for their system, seeking input and feedback from the other two systems' teams and the multi-disciplinary Work Group.

The standing members of the teams include:

### ***Court Team***

Gina Apicelli, Court Administrator, NH Family Division  
Judge Susan B. Carbon, Supervisory Judge, Grafton County Family Division  
Lori Dionne, Court Assistant, Grafton County Family Division  
Kristy Lamont, Court Improvement Project Coordinator, NH District Court  
Elizabeth Paine, Domestic Violence Specialist, NH District Court  
Lauren Thorn, Court Administrator, NH District Court  
Judge John Yazinski, Claremont District Court, Grafton County Family Division

### ***Crisis Center/Coalition Team***

Hana Masecar, Domestic Violence Program Specialist, Women's Supportive Services, Claremont  
Grace Mattern, Director, New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Suzanne Moberly, Director, The Support Center at Burch House, Littleton  
Deborah J. Mozden, Director, Women's Supportive Services, Claremont  
Jaye Olmstead, Director, Voices Against Violence, Plymouth  
Peggy O'Neil, Director, Women's Information Service, Lebanon  
Sarah Sutherland, Domestic Violence Program Specialist, Voices Against Violence, Plymouth  
Hallie Wheeler, Domestic Violence Program Specialist, The Support Center at Burch House, Littleton

### ***DCYF Team***

Mary Ann Babic-Keith, Supervisor, DCYF-Claremont  
Bernie Bluhm, Administrator, DCYF  
Beverly Dubiel, Supervisor, DCYF-Laonia  
Kathy Monahan, Supervisor, DCYF-Littleton  
Michelle Rosenthal, Domestic Violence Intervention Coordinator, DCYF  
Pipp Wiese, Child Protective Service Worker, DCYF-Littleton

