

Vol. 1 No. 1

Everyone Deserves to be Safe

April 1997

FRAGILE: Handle With Care

An AFS Newsletter on Domestic Violence

From the desk of Sandie Hoback, AFS Administrator:

With this newsletter and future events, we will be exploring the issues around domestic violence. Our understanding of this topic is crucial to the continuing success of our self-sufficiency strategy. As we work with increasing numbers of victims and survivors of abuse, our staff and partners need to be able to develop plans that ensure the safety of women and children, and take into account their special needs. Not only will this newsletter and other tools be valuable to our staff, but they will help increase the community's awareness of domestic violence, another important part of effectively helping people who have suffered abuse. We've already seen success stories in which we have helped abused women break away and start a new life. I know there will be many more in the future. Thank you all for your ongoing work in this important area.

What Is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior with the intent to exert power and control over one's partner in an intimate relationship. It involves:

Social Abuse such as driving away friends, public humiliation, creation of economic dependency (forbid/ prevent work outside home; control all money).

Emotional Abuse such as name calling, insults, threats, accusing of infidelity, flaunting own infidelity.

Physical Abuse such as pushing, slapping, repeated hitting, throwing victim, kicking, choking, murder.

Sexual Abuse such as extreme jealousy, unwanted touch, demanding sex, forcing sex, forcing s/m practices, mutilation, murder.

Did You Know?

According to Jeannie LaFrance, Outreach Program Coordinator at Bradley-Angle House, when faced with a domestic violence issue, "it's not uncommon for people to panic and try to force a woman to do what 'is best' for her. This is a natural reaction. It's an attempt to regain a sense of control, and it's the first thing I tell people not to do.

These women do not need one more person taking decisions away from them. They need you to be supportive, be an advocate for them, listen until your ears turn blue, to gather and offer information. Be sure to take care of yourself, too. An over-stressed support person does no one any good."

Newsletter Is A Tool

Domestic violence and abuse is a frightening thing for everyone involved. This includes case managers who are confronted daily with the reality of how this affects a significant number (surveys suggest 50-75%) of our client population. This bi-monthly newsletter is part of a multi-level education effort on domestic violence.

The newsletter will:

- offer facts to dispel myths,
- define terms and demystify acronyms,
- give helpful hints to handle touchy issues,
- announce upcoming events and training opportunities around domestic violence,
- review video tapes on domestic violence and related topics,
- quote survivors of domestic violence,
- provide statistics through True & False or Multiple Choice quizzes,
- offer a Question and Answer feature to address specific field concerns,
- serve as a vehicle to distribute helpful handouts,
- share partnering approaches that have proven to be successful for branches/districts, and
- identify resources to pursue when you reach that "Where do I go from here?" point.



QUIZ

1. In domestic violence cases, what per cent of the targets of violence are women?
 - (a) 50-55%
 - (b) 70-75%
 - (c) 90-95%

2. What per cent of homeless women and children report domestic violence as the primary cause of their homelessness?
 - (a) 28%
 - (b) 36%
 - (c) 43%

3. Battering accounts for which ratio of medical visits by women?
 - (a) 1-in-5
 - (b) 1-in-10
 - (c) 1-in-15

4. What per cent of all emergency room visits are the result of battering?
 - (a) 12%
 - (b) 23%
 - (c) 30%

5. In 1996, in Oregon, 2,561 women and 2,780 children received protection from violence by being housed in crisis shelters. In the Portland area, what per cent of women requesting

shelter from violence have to be turned away because of a lack of space?

- (a) 25%
- (b) 45%
- (c) 90%

Answers:

Highlight the box below to reveal the answers.



Thank You, Meg

Let's take a moment to thank Meg Killgorecathcart, Policy and Budget Section, for serving on the SOSCF Advisory Committee on Domestic Violence. Meg has been the AFS representative on this committee for 4 years. Bonnie Braeutigam, SCF's Domestic Violence Prog. Coordinator states, "Meg's interest and systems perspective greatly helped SCF and the Advisory Committee, especially through revisions of our contracting process. We will miss her."

The committee has the responsibility for recommending how Domestic Violence funds will be allocated. The funding comes from marriage license application fees, a percentage of criminal fine assessment fees and federal funding.

Carol Krager, Field Services Section, is the new AFS representative on this advisory committee.



MYTHS & FACTS

Myth: Domestic violence does not affect many people.

Fact: A woman is beaten every nine seconds.

Fact: Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women between ages 15 and 44 in the United States - more than car accidents, muggings, and rapes combined.

Fact: Battered women are more likely to suffer miscarriages and to give birth to babies with low birth weights.

Fact: Sixty-three percent of the young men between the ages of 11 and 20 who are serving time for homicide have killed their mother's abuser.

Fact: Children from homes where domestic violence occurs are physically or sexually abused or seriously neglected at a rate 1500 percent higher than the national average.



VIDEO



REVIEW

"YOU'RE HURTING ME, TOO"

is a good introduction to domestic violence from a child's perspective.

The video and training packets will be available in May.

Call SDU (503) 378-5707 ex. 222 now to reserve a date for viewing at your office.

(length of video: 25 minutes)