

Executive Summary

Course Title: Impact of Domestic Abuse on Child Development

Instructor: Niki Delson, LCSW

Course Description:

Some experts say that witnessing domestic abuse causes as much if not more damage to the developing child than any other form of child maltreatment. Beginning in utero the fetus is shaped by its external environment – the effects long lasting.

We live in a world that both abhors and glamorizes violence. Culturally it is part of the American tradition – from the macro level of historical violence and oppression against minorities to the micro level of violence within the family. Violence is ubiquitous. It infiltrates our airwaves, and permeates popular culture in our music, television, videos and internet.

Using video, patient art work, lecture, and exercises, this multimedia course will explore the many facets of interpersonal family violence

Topics to be covered:.

1. What it is like to be a victim
2. Some research on scope of the problem and consequences of interpersonal violence
3. Getting rid of misinformation
4. Co-morbid features of violence, child maltreatment, poverty and substance abuse
5. Risk and protective factors
6. Impact on attachment, brain development, and conscience development
7. Impact on parenting ability
8. Assessment of batterer
9. Talking with children about interpersonal violence

Target Audience:

This workshop is designed for entry level as well as more seasoned social workers. Supervisor and administrator attendance should be encouraged. Developing a community response to addressing interpersonal violence involves multiple disciplines. If there is room, J probation officers, victim advocates, batterer treatment providers, children's and women's shelter staff and children's attorneys would be welcomed.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

As a result of this training participants will:

1. be able to describe how interpersonal violence impacts the developing fetus
2. Will be able to identify how witnessing interpersonal violence can interfere with each of the five components of conscience development
3. Will understand the competing protection issues of mothers who are being abused
4. Will gain an understanding of how our cultural inadvertently supports interpersonal violence.
5. Will be familiar with the 10 batterer risk factors for child protection and child visitation
6. Understand that children's coping strategies, while appearing dysfunctional in ordinary settings are necessary for survival at home.

Transfer of learning issues for supervisors

Before training supervisors can help workers explore their own feelings, concerns or issues related to interpersonal family violence. This workshop can be emotionally trying for social workers have experienced violence either within their own families or those of a loved one. Discussing these issues and talking about self care prior to the workshop experience can be beneficial

Workers may have predetermined positions regarding many issues that can get in the way of good social work. Worker objectivity may be heightened when they are assisted in distinguishing their own issues in a supervisory session.

After Training:

Supervisors can support social workers by providing an atmosphere that is conducive to exploring personal, ethical and policy issues. Supervisors should be familiar with the research so that they will be able to support the worker in crafting empirically driven decisions.

Outline

Time	Topic	Delivery
9:9:15	Welcome & Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who are you in the matter - thoughts beliefs and attitudes 	Conversation
9:15-9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why we do this difficult work 	Video "Battered Hearts"
9:30-9:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What it is like to be a victim 	exercise
9:45-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major research issues • Dispelling misinformation • Defining the problem 	Lecture, slide show
10:15-10:30	Risk and Protective factors	Lecture
10:30-10:45	BREAK	
10:45-Noon	Consequences to young children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact on Brain Development ▪ Reaction to Trauma ▪ Impact on developing moral core ▪ Impact on Attachment 	Lecture, slide show, video
Noon-1PM	LUNCH	
1:00-1:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact on Attachment continued 	Lecture, slide show, video, slides of art work
1:40-2:30	Global Impact on child/adolescent development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cognitive development ▪ Emotional/affective development ▪ Social and Interpersonal relationships ▪ Behavioral/problem solving ability ▪ Self Concept 	Brief lecture, video, exercise
2:30—2:45	BREAK	
2:45- 3:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact on Parenting ability ▪ Assessing batterers risk to children 	Lecture, slide show
3:15-3:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Talking with children about Domestic abuse ▪ Understanding and honoring the resilient spirit 	Lecture, slide show
3:40-4	Resources and Wrap up	