

Executive Summary

Course Title: *Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence*

Outline of Training:

This is a one-day training for social workers who work with families where domestic violence is an issue. The training is designed to enhance and improve skills in assessment, interviewing and protection of victims and their children. Using role play and small group discussion, we will develop strategies for building trust and helping victims make good choices. We will explore the influence of substance abuse and cultural issues as well as the biases, frustrations and fears associated with these cases.

This interactive session will utilize such learning transfer methods as lecture, small and large group discussion, film clips, role play and journaling.

Target Audience: *This training is designed for CWS social workers, supervisors and others who work with families in the child welfare system. Trainees should be familiar with the basic dynamics of domestic violence such as the Cycle of Violence, the reasons that perpetrators abuse victims and the reasons victims remain in abuse relationships.*

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

As a result of this training, trainees will:

- *Examine the dynamics of family violence in today's world: the influence of poverty, discrimination, substance abuse and hopelessness as they impact victims and their children*
- *Explain how exposure to spousal/partner abuse typically affects children and adolescents.*
- *Identify cultural practices that impact our ability to work with families where violence is an issue, and know when it is appropriate to intervene*
- *Have better insight into their own biases and feelings regarding the issue of family violence*
- *Utilize the techniques of motivational interviewing to work with clients to address their resistance to change.*

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

Supervisors can help their staff to fully benefit from this training by reviewing the executive summary with staff members, encouraging them to bring current case issues for discussion and providing them with access to cases where family violence is an issue as well as an opportunity to discuss their cases both before and after the training session.

AFTER the training

Supervisor can meet with the participant and identify a case in which concepts from the training can be applied.