

**King County Domestic  
Violence and Child Protective  
Services Collaboration  
Project**

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- **Sandra Shanahan**

King County Protection Order Advocacy Program:  
Sandra.Shanahan@kingcounty.gov

- **Maureen Walum**

DCFS, Child Protection Services:  
Mauw300@dshs.wa.gov

- **Erin Galvin**

Public Health Seattle & King County:  
Erin.Galvin@kingcounty.gov

- **Deborah Greenleaf**

Public Health Seattle & King County:  
Deborah.Greenleaf@kingcounty.gov

# **Collaboration Project Mission**

- **“To increase safety and reduce the impact of DV on survivors and their children.”**
- **“The collaboration project operates under the guiding principles of promoting safety, supporting DV survivor’s autonomy, and achieving perpetrator accountability.”**

# **Identifying Commonalities**

- **Came to jobs as a choice**
- **The work important to our society**
- **Personal history**
- **The nature and purpose of the job**
- **The desire to improve the lives of children and their families**

# **DV Advocacy Movement**

# **DV Advocacy Movement & Systems Collaboration**

- **Objectives of DV advocacy movement**
- **Approach to working with families**
- **Impact of cultural and social attitudes toward victims of domestic violence**
- **Historic tensions with criminal justice and legal systems**
- **Evolving interest and efforts toward systems collaboration**

# **Child Protective Services (CPS) System**

# **CPS**

- **History of CPS and Child Abuse Laws**
- **CPS Mission: Protection of children**
- **CPS approach in working with families**
- **State law governs CPS practices and procedures**
- **2008 - Emphasis on Solution Based Casework**

# **Principles of Collaboration**

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- **Trust**
- **Agreement on core values**
- **Agreement and focus on common goals**
- **Common language**
- **Respect for the knowledge and experience of each person**

# Principles of Collaboration

- **Assume positive intentions**
- **Recognize strengths, needs and limitations of all parties**
- **Work through conflict**
- **Share decision-making, risk taking and accountability**

# **Benefits of Collaboration**

- **Broader understanding of systems increases effectiveness of advocacy efforts**
- **Increased effectiveness supporting survivors goals**
- **Share in common struggle to enhance safety for women and children**
- **Mutual system accountability**

**Overview of  
The King County  
DV and CPS Collaboration  
Project**

# **Project Background**

- **Our Domestic Violence community recognized concerns of families experiencing DV and who were involved with Child Protective Services (CPS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS)**
- **In response, The King County Women's Program of Community and Human Services established DV/CPS Collaboration Project in 1997**
- **The goal of the project was to develop and maintain a sustainable collaboration between DV and CPS/CWS providers**

# **King County DV CPS Collaboration Project Timeline**

# **DV/CPS Collaboration Project: Needs Assessment Findings**

## **Identified Barriers to Collaboration**

- **Differing organizational cultures and philosophies**
- **Differing roles, mandates, and work requirements**
- **“Too much work, not enough resources, not enough time!”**
- **Misinformation and Misunderstandings about practices**
- **Negative experiences when working with one another**

# **DV/CPS Collaboration: Best Practices Workgroup**

- **Developed in 2000 in response to a practice issue of universal referrals to CPS in DV cases**
- **Need identified to develop an interagency and interdisciplinary group to review practices and promote Best or Promising Practices**
- **The Best Practices Workgroup has become the core component of the DV/CPS collaboration project**

# **Best Practices Workgroup Community and Systems Members 2008**

- **CPS Program Manager, Supervisor, CPS Social Worker**
- **Community Based DV agencies**
- **Protection Order Advocacy**
- **King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO)**
- **Batterer's Treatment**
- **Mental Health**
- **Family Court Services**
- **Public Health**

# **Roles of Best Practices Members**

The members of Best Practices engage in activities with the goals of *improving*

- **Cooperation**
- **Communication**
- **Community responses**

# **DV/CPS Project Activities \***

- **Develop interagency relationships and share information/resources**
- **Analysis and problem solving for systems related issues**
- **Development of community reports regarding DV and child maltreatment**
- **Develop law enforcement response protocols and documentation guidelines**
- **Develop training, conferences, and client resources**
- **Develop/implement the King County DV and Child Maltreatment Coordinated Response Guideline**
- **Develop community education resources and materials**

**\* For information contact project coordinator:  
Deborah.Greenleaf@kingcounty.gov**

# **DV and Child Maltreatment Case Staffing Process:**

## **Where This Process has Taken Us And Lessons Learned**

# **DV and Child Maltreatment Case Staffing Process**

- **An interdisciplinary process whereby cases are presented and discussed at Best Practices meetings.**
- **Purpose: Identify systems barriers that inhibit effective responses to families**
- **Provide support to systems and community providers who bring cases to the staffing process**
- **Brainstorm solutions, develop action plans including sub-committee work and training programs**

# **DV CPS Collaboration Project**

**The Evolution of a Partnership  
Among Community-Based  
Providers and  
Systems-Based Providers**

# **DV CPS Collaboration Project: 1997**

## **Community and Systems Partners**

- **CPS Program Manager and Supervisors**
- **DV agencies**
- **Public Health**
- **UW School of Social Work**
- **Medical Provider**
- **King County Women's Program**

# **DV CPS Collaboration Project: 2008 Community and Systems Partners**

- **DCFS (CPS) Regional Administer, Program Manager, Supervisors, CPS Workers**
- **DV agencies including advocacy, shelters and transitional housing programs**
- **Public Health**
- **King County Women's Program**
- **King County Coalition Against DV**
- **City of Seattle, Human Services, DV and Sexual Assault Prevention Division**
- **King County Sheriff's Office**
- **Protection Order Advocacy Program**
- **King Prosecuting Attorney**
- **City of Seattle Attorney's Office**
- **King County Department of Adult & Juvenile Detention, Corrections and Probation Services**
- **Washington State Attorney General's Office**
- **King County Superior Court Judicial Officers**
- **King County Superior Court DV Program Manager**
- **King County DV Council and DV Coordinating Committee**
- **King County Family Court Services**
- **Batterer's Treatment Providers**
- **Mental Health Providers**
- **Children's Hospital**
- **University of Washington, Northwest Institute for Children and Families**
- **Community Networks**
- **The Public Defender's Association**
- **Society Counsel Representing Accused Persons**
- **South King County Community Network**