



THE SPOTLIGHT

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
REGION VI-DALLAS, TEXAS
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ABUSED MOTHERS KEEP CHILDREN IN A TEST OF RIGHTS AND SAFETY

The New York Times-November 28, 2003
By LESLIE KAUFMAN

In September 2002, child welfare workers, acting on a tip from a schoolteacher, arrived at a Bronx home to investigate a suspicious bruise on a 4-year-old boy. They quickly learned that the child's mother was entwined in a deeply abusive marriage, that she was living with her husband in violation of a court order to remain separate, and that the boy had been bruised before.

A year earlier, the child might have been whisked into foster care for safety. But in June 2002, a federal judge barred the city from removing children from a parent just because the parent was a victim of domestic violence, or because the parent had not acted to prevent the child from witnessing the abuse.

So the boy, whose name along with that of his mother is being withheld for their safety, stayed with his mother, and they have left the father. Today, the mother regularly dresses her son in his favorite hockey jersey, waits with him for the school bus in the morning and is living out another day in a court-ordered experiment at the dangerous and much de-

bated intersection of child welfare and domestic abuse policies.

Those who champion the change say it has left more children in the care of a loving parent, but they acknowledge that it comes with risks as the child welfare agency is just beginning to develop the range of services needed to prevent the mothers from staying in such dangerous homes or from keeping their abusers away from them when they leave.

The Bronx mother tells that story. "I am very, very lucky to still have my son," says the mother, who thinks a different social worker might have taken him away. But, she said, her ordeal is not over. Although she has left and is divorcing her husband, he haunts her. Only last month, she said, he called and threatened to burn down the house. "When I come home at night my son still has this fear his father will come get him," the mother said, "and I have to hold him until he goes to sleep."

Domestic violence has always been a tricky problem for child welfare workers. Studies have shown, for instance, that households victimized by domestic violence can be spectacularly dangerous, even lethal, for children. And even temporary interventions - the brief removal of children or the forced treatment of the parents-

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HOME METH LABS MAKING KIDS ILL

By Fox Butterfield—New York Times

BOONE, N.C. - Sandra Rupert, a counselor at an elementary school in this Blue Ridge Mountain town, wondered about two sisters who had headaches, colds and coughs virtually every day.

Sheriff Mark Shook found the explanation when he raided the children's home and discovered their mother and her boyfriend were cooking methamphetamine in the attic, where the girls slept. The girls, in the second and third grades, were suffering from the toxic fumes emitted by the methamphetamine cooking, said Chad Slagle, a social worker with the Watauga County Child Protective Services Unit. They were removed immediately from the house and taken away from their mother.

The girls are among the young victims found in homes with clandestine laboratories that, new evidence suggests, face a health threat as hazardous as that faced by those who actually use the drug.

A study released in January by the National Jewish Medical and Research Center in Denver, which specializes in respiratory illnesses, found that poisonous chemicals

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TREATMENT PROVIDERS NEED TO BE AWARE THAT A MYRIAD OF HEALTH PROBLEMS OFTEN ACCOMPANY SUBSTANCE ABUSE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health-November 10, 2003

Results of two new studies, funded in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health, show that people with substance abuse disorders often have accompanying medical or psychiatric conditions that can include bone fractures, muscle injuries, pain disorders, depression, anxiety, and even psychoses. The studies are published in the November issues of "Archives of Internal Medicine and Archives of General Psychiatry".

"The findings from these studies highlight the need for medical screening and treatment of comorbid conditions," says NIDA Director Dr. Nora D. Volkow. "These studies provide more evidence that substance abuse does not occur in a vacuum, but rather often exists together with a number of conditions that have serious health consequences and may influence the success of substance abuse interventions provided alone. Physicians and other health care providers need to keep in mind

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can be undone as battered mothers return again and again to their abusive husbands or partners. Even the bravest of actions - a mother's permanent break - often provokes the highest risk of serious violence.

Punishing the Victim

As a result, the city has long recognized the delicate nature of these cases and increased specialized training for its workers who handle them. But in a March 2002 decision, Judge Jack B. Weinstein of United States District Court in Brooklyn found that the city's judgment calls had too often punished the victim, and that the mere fact of domestic violence was not sufficient grounds for taking children away from their mothers. The city has appealed the decision, and a hearing on extending the judge's order beyond its expiration date of Jan. 31, 2004, is scheduled for Dec. 9.

The decision arose from suits filed by three battered women; each said the city had charged her with neglect and placed her children in foster care although her only crime was to have been involved with a man who hit her and in some cases her children. In every other respect, the women argued, they were fit parents. The cases were eventually merged into a class action under the name *Nicholson v. Williams*.

The city counters that although the *Nicholson* lawsuit may have highlighted some instances of bad case practice, the child welfare agency does not as policy remove children solely because of domestic violence.

William C. Bell, commissioner of the city's Administration for Children's Services, argues that the city was and is on the cutting edge in developing services and standards for domestic violence victims long before the litigation. "The city had a reform agenda before the injunction and we have continued to implement it," he said.

But proponents of extending the in-

junction argue that it has shifted the focus of caseworkers in domestic abuse cases to the batterer from the victim. "In the past they were taking kids away from moms because it was an easy fix," said Carolyn Kubitschek, the lawyer for the battered women. "Now A.C.S. has been charging batterers with neglect and using family court to keep an eye on him."

Social workers cannot monitor homes around the clock, of course, but they are being trained to deal directly with local police precincts on the behalf of battered mothers. Through family court they can also file actions against the fathers to take away their legal rights to see the children or to visit their homes, and even to jail them.

As the bureaucracy recalibrates to be more sensitive to mothers, it gains new challenges. Keeping an eye on the batterer, for example, is easier said than done, as countless local police forces have learned in recent years. In addition, caseworkers are supposed to develop a safety plan for an abused mother and her children, something that advocates for abused women say most city caseworkers are not adequately trained to do.

Then there is the problem of limited resources available to even the most skilled caseworkers. Homeless shelters specializing in domestic violence victims are so overbooked that they turn away roughly half the women who apply. Other services like specialized counseling and services intended for women from various cultures and ethnic groups are also oversubscribed.

"The good news is more kids are staying with their moms and more clinical services are being offered to these women," said Andrew White, director of the Center for New York City Affairs at the New School, which completed a report on the impact of the *Nicholson* case in October. But, Mr. White said, "there was nowhere near the amount of counseling and other services needed to help the women change their lives and

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Ashcroft Weighs Granting of Asylum to Abused Women

By RACHEL L. SWARNS—New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 10 -The first hint of change came without much fanfare or publicity last month as the Department of Homeland Security quietly proposed sweeping changes in the handling of political asylum cases. But as word trickled across the country, dozens of battered women seeking refuge in the United States felt the first stirrings of hope.

In their home countries, the women say, the authorities repeatedly ignored them when they tried to report and escape their abusive partners. The Department of Homeland Security, which took on the function of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, is proposing rules that would allow for political asylum in such extreme cases, opening the door to women fleeing countries that condone severe domestic abuse, genital mutilation and other forms of acute violence against women.

If approved, the rules would for the first time recognize severe cases of domestic violence as equivalent in certain instances to more familiar asylum cases involving political and religious persecution.

Department officials have passed along their recommendations in a 43-page legal brief to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who will make the final decision. The officials have urged Mr. Ashcroft to allow the department to put in place rules governing such cases and have called for Rodi Alvarado Peña of Guatemala, whose case gave rise to the recommendations, to be granted asylum.

Justice Department officials say Mr. Ashcroft is still considering the issue, which has been roiling the immigration courts since a small but growing number of such cases began appearing in the 1990's. Some Justice Department officials indicated that Mr. Ashcroft had initially opposed such rules, but a former

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break the often repetitive cycle of domestic violence."

The Bronx mother is just one example of complicated cases the city is now required to manage and the limits of protections it can offer. She met her husband six years ago, she said, when she was in her mid-20's and still in a "party phase," which included cocaine. In three months she was pregnant and in five months she was married.

The beatings started soon after she gave birth. Embarrassed to show her puffy black and blue face at the office, she lost her job. Others began to notice the abuse. After one vicious beating in 1999, her parents called the police, who arrested her husband on charges of battery. His wife was granted a yearlong order of protection from the court and went back to work. As soon as it elapsed, though, she returned to living with him. The cycle began all over again.

Watching in Hysterics

One drunken night in 2001, the mother said, her husband beat her in a public park so badly that her nose was broken. Their young son watched the entire episode in hysterics. Her parents called the police again. This time the court issued a three-year order of protection. But in violation of that order she went to live with him again.

A fast-talking fireplug of a woman with large, soft eyes, she does not seem like a passive receptacle for abuse, but, she said, that is what she was. She said her husband decided where they would live, told her where to sit when watching TV, and even ordered her to keep the bathroom door open when she relieved herself.

Asked to explain why she put up with so much, she shakes her head. She loved him, she explains, she was afraid of him, and, perhaps most important, she believed that families should stay together no matter what. "The thought of my son growing up without a father

hurt me more than the beatings," she said.

Her husband, meanwhile, was increasingly negligent or rough with their son. She said she often found her son's diapers unchanged all day when she returned home from work. Once she found his piggy bank broken into.

In late 2001, she said, when their son went to preschool with an unexplained bruise on his face, the Administration for Children's Services entered their lives again, opening an investigation. But she said she was able to convince agency workers that the bruise was from an accident.

In a different era, the boy might have been placed in foster care until the mother agreed to leave her husband, a punishing strategy that often backfired and could actually make the mother even more dependent on the man.

Instead, the caseworker temporarily gave custody of the boy to his maternal grandparents, but offered his mother and father an opportunity to get therapy, a condition of their getting their son back.

The mother started domestic violence counseling for the first time in her stormy relationship, but her husband refused. So in November 2002, afraid she would lose her child, the mother left her husband instead and the Administration for Children's Services awarded her custody of their son. She and the boy continue to receive counseling provided through an ethnic community group, which the mother said had made her realize that she no longer wanted to return to her husband.

Early Support Crucial

The director of the Safe Families Project for the Legal Aid Society, Lisa Kociubes, who is a social worker herself, could not speak to the Bronx mother's case directly but said the support that domestic violence victims are given early on can be critical.

"The front-loading of services is a really important part of this project and what A.C.S. is now doing," she said.

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TREATMENT PROVIDERS

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that a diagnosis of substance abuse should be an important warning signal to look for co-existing medical or psychiatric conditions."

In the "Archives of Internal Medicine" article, Jennifer Mertens and her colleagues at Kaiser Permanente health maintenance organization and the University of California, San Francisco, reported results of their study. The researchers analyzed 12-month data from 747 people who entered the Kaiser Permanente substance abuse program, and 3,690 demographically matched control patients who were members of the managed care organization but who were not diagnosed with substance abuse.

They found that people undergoing treatment for substance abuse had a significantly higher prevalence of injuries (such as fractures, sprains, strains, and burns), depression, and anxiety disorders. Substance abuse patients also were more likely to require treatment for lower back pain, headache, and arthritis. About one-third of the medical conditions described during the study period were significantly more common in people undergoing substance abuse treatment.

More than 25 percent of the substance abuse patients were diagnosed with injuries compared to only 12 percent of the controls. Also, 29 percent of the substance abuse patients were diagnosed with depression and 17 percent with anxiety disorders, versus only 3 percent and 2 percent of the control patients, respectively.

The second study, published in the "Archives of General Psychiatry", highlights data from the Northwestern Juvenile Project. Dr. Karen Abram, Dr. A. Linda Teplin, and their colleagues at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago interviewed 1,829 youth ages 10 to 18 at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention

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It allows the non-offending parent to be able to achieve safety in a faster way, because it helps them overcome needs that make it difficult to leave." In some cases those needs might be new housing, immigration papers or an alternative form of income.

In the case of the Bronx mother, counseling specific to her ethnic background was the key.

But the caseworker also faces a tougher task of keeping the mother and child safe from the husband. He has continued to refuse counseling, his wife said, has threatened her over the phone, vowing to burn down the house where she and their son live, and she has seen him prowling the neighborhood with a flashlight. At court dates he has mocked her and her lawyer, calling them derogatory names, and after one family court hearing, he told her that if she did not shut her mouth, he would shut it for her, she said.

Each time, his actions have been reported as violations of the court order of protection. That swift reaction is a far cry from treatment received by many plaintiffs in the original Nicholson case, one of whom's husband violated his court order more than 20 times without the Administration for Children's Services' acting to help her.

Still, the Bronx husband has served no jail time despite three violations of the order of protection. In fact, he has filed countercharges against his wife, saying she falsely accused him. A trial date has yet to be set.

The Administration for Children's Services is responsible for protecting only children, but many of those who supported the Nicholson lawsuit want to see the agency's powers extended. "You need to broaden the mission and hold caseworkers accountable for the safety and empowerment of the mother," said Evan D. Stark, who testified for the plaintiffs in Nicholson and

is a member of a court-appointed panel with responsibilities to see that the injunction is carried out.

Whatever the current limits of protection offered by the agency, the Bronx mother says she is exceedingly grateful for the help she has received. She praises her caseworker from the Administration for Children's Services and her lawyer, saying they have given her the greatest gift of all: control of her life.

"They really took the time to investigate this and realize that I am the one protecting our son," she said, "and they also made me realize that my husband doesn't have power over me."

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TREATMENT PROVIDERS

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Center. Overall, more than 10 percent of males and almost 14 percent of females had a substance abuse disorder and a major mental disorder, such as psychosis, manic episode, or major depressive episode. Approximately 600 of these 1,829 young people had substance abuse disorders and behavioral disorders.

In looking at a subset of 305 youth with major mental disorders at the Center, the scientists found that more than 50 percent of females and nearly 75 percent of males also reported a substance abuse disorder.

When the scientists examined data from a different subset of 874 youth with substance abuse disorders, they found that 30 percent of the females and 21.4 percent of the males also had a major mental disorder.

About 25 percent of these juvenile justice system detainees with major mental disorders reported that their psychiatric problem preceded their substance abuse disorder by more than 1 year. Almost 67 percent of females and more than 54 percent of males devel-

oped their mental and drug abuse disorders within the same year.

"As members of the medical community, we need to be aware of the high prevalence of comorbidity with substance, and adjust our focus to include treating all of a person's health problems," says Dr. Volkow. "We need to recognize that these problems can be severe and can include physical injuries and serious mental disorders. Effectively addressing these concerns will be key to breaking the cycle of these disorders and substance abuse."

"The findings indicate a need for additional research that delves further into substance abuse and comorbidity," says Dr. Volkow. "Improving our awareness of substance abuse as a condition that does not exist in isolation will contribute to more effective prevention and treatment interventions."

The National Institute on Drug Abuse is a component of the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIDA supports more than 85 percent of the world's research on the health aspects of drug abuse and addiction. The Institute carries out a large variety of programs to ensure the rapid dissemination of research information and its implementation in policy and practice. Fact sheets on the health effects of drugs of abuse and information on NIDA research and other activities can be found on the NIDA home page at <<http://www.drugabuse.gov>>.

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GRANTING ASYLUM

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senior administration official familiar with the issue said he believed that Mr. Ashcroft would approve the proposal, given the considerable pressure from conservative groups and the Homeland Security Department.

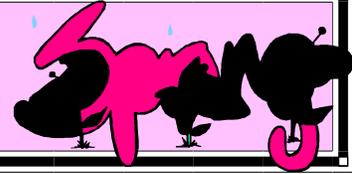
More than 36 Democrats in Congress, as well as leaders of conservative-minded groups like Concerned Women for America, and World Relief, an arm of the Nat-

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PROGRAM SUPPORTS INMATES' CHILDREN

BYLINE: LUDMILLA LELIS; Knight Ridder
Tribune News Service
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

At first, Sandra Andrews didn't tell her two children that their father had gone to prison. She feared it would only make their lives harder.

When she finally did tell them, she saw firsthand the destructive patterns that experts say are typical of children of prisoners. Their grades started falling, and she could tell her son and his younger sister were unhappy.

Federal statistics show that children suffer stress and stigma from a parent's incarceration and may be more prone to fall into destructive behavior or substance abuse. According to one federal study, children of prisoners are seven times more likely than other children to become juvenile delinquents and adult prisoners themselves.

But Andrews has new reason to believe her son, John Andrew Kramer, 15, will beat those grim odds.

Bush gets involved

On Friday at Tomoka Correctional Institution, where his father is finishing a five-year sentence for aggravated stalking, the Palm Bay teenager became the first in the state to enroll in a new program to help children of prisoners by pairing them with mentors and giving them a chance at a college scholarship.

Gov. Jeb Bush met John and his father, John Francis Kramer, on Friday at the Daytona Beach prison shortly before announcing the start of this pilot program, which takes its cue from the state's current mentoring initiative and from a new federal grant for such programs. Bush said Florida is the first state to start one.

"It is a great opportunity to give children of prisoners a chance in life," Bush said Friday. "The stigma of having a family member in prison can be tough."

About 61 children from 11 different counties who have parents at Tomoka or the Broward Correctional Institution will be enrolled in the \$500,000 program, which is being sponsored by several prison-related businesses, including several that do business with the Department of Corrections. Among those companies are Aramark, the food service company; Wexford Medicine in Corrections; Pride Enterprises, which provides job training at the same time it uses inmate labor for manufacturing; and Bridges of America, which provides substance abuse treatment.

Paying the bills

Florida also hopes to get a slice of the \$50 million the federal government plans to spend on similar efforts. The bulk of the expense will go toward the \$4,500 cost of each prepaid scholarship, said Karin Griffin-Coleman, director of strategic alliance for Take Stock in Children, the group that is managing the mentoring program.

The state will provide some of the costs of administering the program, through its current mentoring initiative, Bush said. About 20 children with fathers at Tomoka and 40 children with mothers at the Broward state prison will be enrolled. The program will later expand to the Everglades Correctional Institution in Dade County and the Lowell Correctional Institution in Marion County.

John Francis Kramer expects to be released from prison in 52 days. A new mentor will start to meet with his son in the next few weeks, and the mentoring will continue even after the teen's father is released.

"I believe this is what this country is about, about giving people, who wouldn't usually have such an opportunity, an advantage over their circumstances," said Kramer, 44, who enjoyed his first reunion with the teenager in four years. "This is fantastic. This is a blessing."

Children who successfully complete the program - maintaining

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METH LABS

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released in the methamphetamine cooking process spread throughout buildings where the cooking is being done.

"The study showed that the chemicals are everywhere in the house and that children living in houses with meth labs might as well be taking the drug directly," said Michele Leonhart, the acting deputy administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Last year, 8,000 illegal methamphetamine labs were seized nationwide, and 3,300 children were found in them, DEA figures show. In addition, 48 children were burned or injured and one was killed when methamphetamine labs caught fire or exploded, as they sometimes do, the agency's statistics show.

In Tennessee, which has the worst methamphetamine problem in the Southeast, 697 children were removed from their parents' custody and placed in foster homes over the past 18 months because they were living in places with methamphetamine labs, said Carla Aaron of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Cooking methamphetamine is an extremely toxic process, said Dr. Andrew Mason, a forensic toxicologist who lives in Boone. Both of the common methods used produce dangerous gases and leave hazardous waste, Mason said.

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SURVEY FINDS WIDE- SPREAD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

March 30, 2004 Salem, Ore. A new state report says that 10 percent of Oregon women ages 20 to 55 have been physically or sexually abused by their intimate partners during the past five years. More than half of those assaulted, the report states, suffered serious harm, including broken bones, internal

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Asylum to Battered Women

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ional Association of Evangelicals, have urged government officials to rule in favor of Mrs. Alvarado and women like her.

Many battered women are anxiously awaiting the government's final determination. In California, Mrs. Alvarado, who said she fled an abusive husband who had dislocated her jawbone and used her head to break windows and mirrors, said her eyes filled with tears when she learned that domestic security officials had recommended granting asylum to women like her. In New York, Zaide Cinto of Mexico, her vision blurred and her hearing dulled after years of beatings by her husband, said she shouted, "Yes!"

"I don't know who makes these decisions, but I think they must have hearts," said Mrs. Cinto, who is living in a shelter for the homeless as she awaits a decision on her petition for political asylum. "Perhaps they can understand our suffering."

"Things are changing," she said hopefully, "not only for me, but for many people."

The shift in policy would bring the United States in line with countries like Britain and Australia, which have been granting asylum in such cases for several years. Officials say the rules would also give much-needed guidance to immigration judges who have been issuing contradictory opinions in dozens of cases.

In 1996, the Board of Immigration Appeals granted asylum to Fauziya Kassindja, who said her clitoris would be cut off if she were forced to return to Togo. The board, the highest administrative court for asylum cases, agreed that female circumcision was equivalent to more widely recognized forms of persecution.

But three years later, the board denied asylum to Mrs. Alvarado. She said she had gone to the police in Guatemala

on five occasions, reporting that her husband routinely raped and sodomized her, nearly pushed out one of her eyes and beat her into unconsciousness. The police declined to investigate, saying it was a domestic matter.

The immigration board found Mrs. Alvarado's testimony credible and agreed that the abuse would most likely continue if she returned to Guatemala. But it concluded that she failed to meet the statutory requirement for asylum. Government lawyers criticized the board's analysis in the Alvarado case, and Janet Reno, who was attorney general, vacated the decision in January 2001, ordering the board to decide the case after the government completed regulations allowing victims of domestic violence to be granted asylum in limited cases.

The rules were never finished. Bo Cooper, who served as general counsel for the Immigration and Naturalization Service until it was subsumed by the Department of Homeland Security last year, called the new recommendations "very important" and said they would provide a critical road map for judges and government lawyers.

"Under established principles of asylum law, these kinds of cases should be granted," Mr. Cooper said. "What they're trying to do is to help bring some clarity to what has for years been a very unsettled doctrine in U.S. immigration law."

It is unclear how Mr. Ashcroft, who decided last year to take up the case, will rule on the issue. But a former senior administration official who has been involved in recent discussions of the issue with lawyers and lobbying groups said he believed Mr. Ashcroft would rule favorably.

"With conservative women's groups weighing in on this and now homeland security, the politics of it would be awful for the administration, whether it's good policy or not," the former administration official said. "That's going to mean enormous pressure put on Ashcroft to stay with the proposed regu-

lation. I think he will ultimately go with it."

The need for clarity on the issue has become increasingly evident as a small but steady stream of women press their claims here. Some women, like Mrs. Alvarado, left their abusive husbands in their home countries and entered the United States illegally. Other women followed their husbands to the United States, entering the country illegally or on visas. They petitioned for asylum

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SURVEY

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injuries, head injuries, cuts or knife wounds.

The survey of nearly 3,000 Oregon women was conducted by the state Department of Human Services.

"This is a pretty prevalent problem and one about which there is a fair amount of denial," said Mel Kohn, DHS epidemiologist.

Generalized to the larger population, the findings indicate that more than 85,000 Oregon women were hurt by their spouses or lovers during the past five years.

The study, part of a \$400,000 federal grant aimed at tracking intimate partner violence, revealed several striking findings:

- Less than two-fifths of seriously injured women received medical care. Of those, about one-quarter of the physical assault victims and nearly half of the sexual assault victims did not tell their medical providers how the injuries occurred.

- Women who were hurt averaged eight physical assaults and a dozen sexual assaults over a five-year period.

- Women whose partners had threatened them with violence during the past five years were 40 times more likely to report that they had actually been assaulted.

- After adjusting for other factors, American Indian women were four

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CHILDREN OF PRISONERS

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their grades, good behavior and regular meetings with their mentor - will receive a scholarship through the Florida Prepaid College program that will cover either training at a vocational-technical institute or an associate's degree at a community college with two additional years at a state college.

'Good place to start'

Florida has 60,000 children with parents in the state prison system, according to state statistics. Inmates with children enrolled in the program are already housed in special faith-based prison dormitories, which the governor supports.

Some critics have questioned whether these inmates may get preferential treatment. However, the mentoring program is not intended to be restricted solely to inmates housed in the religious dormitories, said Jacob DiPietre, spokesman for the governor.

"As the program grows, we'll be able to expand it," DiPietre said. "It's not necessarily a faith-based program. This was just a good place to start this program."

Each of the enrolled children will be assigned a mentor, who will meet with them one hour a week. That relationship should be key to helping the student overcome the challenges that many children of incarcerated parents face, said Dr. Wade Horn, a child psychologist and assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who attended the announcement in Daytona. In addition to the mentors, students in the program will get a case manager who serves as a liaison between parents, teachers, school administrators and mentors. They also will make sure the children get tutors or anything else they need to succeed academically.

Horn said federal statistics show that

these children are often poor and also are susceptible to violence, child abuse and neglect.

"There is a solution. Mentoring provides a trusting relationship and stability for the child," Horn said.

Andrews said her children are doing better these days, and her son, who studies at Southwest Middle School in Palm Bay, is no longer a failing student and earns a B average. She believes that he may be able to use his talents as an artist to make a future for himself. She also hopes that his sister, Erin, will sign up for the mentoring program after she turns 13 and becomes eligible.

John seemed uncertain what to make of all the attention to the program. "It's just another day," said the teen. Then he remembered again, what the program that he signed up for offered him.

"I'm not sure what I would study," the 15-year-old said. "But I get to go to college."

PROGRAM FACTS

Gov. Jeb Bush unveiled Friday a new program called, "Children of Prisoners, Children of Promise" that will provide mentoring and college scholarships to children with an incarcerated parent.

About 61 children are enrolled in the pilot program. The children enrolled live in 11 different counties.

The program costs \$500,000, which includes money that will be invested in the Florida Prepaid College program. Most of the money comes from corporate donors, although the state will pay for some of the administrative costs. SOURCE: Governor's office, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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How Women Recover From Addiction Most Replace Addiction With Another Passion in Their Lives

Ohio University News Release-

Women who recover from drug and alcohol addiction may not kick the habit just for their children or because they have a sudden "wake up call" about their problem, according to a small new study of former female addicts.

These women - many of whom are over the age of 35 and hold a college degree - took a proactive role in overcoming substance abuse, replacing those addictions with new lifestyles that include school, work, community service and physical exercise.

Women are the fastest-growing segment of substance abusers in the United States: About 2.7 million American women abuse alcohol or drugs, or one-quarter of all abusers, according to the federal Center for Substance Abuse Prevention. But there is little research on women's stories of how they recover from drug and alcohol addiction, according to Ohio University sociologist Judith Grant.

Grant, a visiting assistant professor, spent three years in a non-profit agency in Canada, where she worked as a researcher and educator with more than 300 female addicts enrolled in a recovery program. Many of the women faced different challenges than male addicts and devised unique ways to overcome substance abuse, Grant said.

To document their stories, the sociologist interviewed 12 Canadian women and 14 Ohio women who have been off drugs and alcohol for at least 18 months. She presented preliminary findings this week at the American Society of Criminology meeting in Chicago.

While this study may not be reflective of all women addicts, it implies that some of the earlier studies may have mischaracterized addiction recovery for

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WOMEN AND ADDICTION

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women. One concept the analysis refutes is that women abandon drugs and alcohol for the sake of their kids, said Grant.

"Children are important, but if these women don't recover for themselves, they generally relapse," she said.

The women also could not specify a "turning point" that prompted their recovery; for most the awareness of the need to overcome their substance abuse was a slow process, Grant found. And their success at recovery did not hinge on changing their identities from "addict" to "ex-addict," as the literature suggests, but unearthing their real selves. The women viewed using drugs and alcohol as an activity they were involved in, not an identity they had assumed.

"They bring back an old identity from before they got addicted, before the violence and drug abuse," she said. "This is really me now," they say. "The blanket is gone."

Half of the women in the study had used a program such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous to overcome addiction, but the other half succeeded on their own. All of the women have replaced addiction with another passion in their lives, Grant said, ranging from physical exercise to volunteer work to school. Some now mentor other women who are overcoming addiction.

The participants began using drugs or alcohol in their teens or early 20s to mask the pain of family violence and incest, according to Grant, who added that all also reported having a family member who was an addict. These experiences produced crippling low self-esteem, a theme par-

ticular to these women's stories.

"I've never heard a male addict, to this day, in my work, talk about a 'lack of self-esteem,'" Grant said. Grant hopes her findings will be of use to addiction recovery agencies and other organizations that assist women.

The strong link between domestic violence and substance abuse should be acknowledged by addiction recovery centers and battered women shelters, she said, which tend to treat each problem in isolation.

####

New Report Details Sexual Trends Among Low-Income Black Urban Youth

January 21, 2004-National Campaign To Prevent Teen Pregnancy

(Washington, DC) -For many low-income Black urban youth, sex is seen as little more than a transaction and mainstream messages about sex, love, and relationships are having little impact in the inner city, according to a new report from MEE (Motivational Educational Entertainment) Productions, released today by MEE, in partnership with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. This extraordinarily frank report, *This is My Reality - The Price of Sex: An Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality*, summarizes findings from 40 focus groups conducted in ten cities in 2002, and offers many sobering insights from low-income Black youth (ages 16-20) on their views about sex, relationships, pregnancy, abstinence and marriage. The California Endowment and the Ford Foundation sponsored the report.

"These Black youth wanted - and needed - to be heard, and we went into their communities and listened," said MEE President, Ivan Juzang. "For the most part, Black urban youth are not

getting the information and guidance they need to make good choices about their sexual health. They view sex as a transaction, harbor little trust for each other, and believe that adults are contributing to the problem of early, casual sex and pregnancy."

In the U.S., 35 percent of girls get pregnant at least once by age 20. Despite recent declines, the U.S. still has the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates of any Western industrialized nation. African-Americans have achieved some of the steepest declines in both teen pregnancies and births. Between 1990 and 1999 (most recent data available), teen pregnancy rates for Black teens (aged 15-19) declined 30 percent, compared to 25 percent for the nation as a whole.

"This is a very widespread problem touching all teens," said Sarah Brown, Director of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. "However, given our goal of reducing the national teen pregnancy rate by one-third, we need to provide special support to groups whose rates are highest. The teens in the MEE study represent a group that is at particularly high risk for pregnancy - so it is critical that we understand them better," Brown said. "This report is a vital step in that direction and is unlike any we've seen in its depth, candor and insight. We are proud to help MEE Productions share these young peoples' insights with those who work with teens across the country."

Some key findings from the report:

* Trust and communication are rare, and young Black girls in particular do not feel valued. In the focus groups, males said that they don't trust females and females said that they don't trust each other; many noted frequent relationships between young girls and adult men; and males and females both reported a high level of derogatory sexual terms used to describe women. Young men frequently said that one reason they did not

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BLACK URBAN YOUTH

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have a single, steady partner is that they don't trust girls to be faithful. Both sexes said that cheating was rampant and that many guys had both a regular girlfriend ("wifey") and casual sex partners ("shortys") - and that condom use was more prevalent with casual sex partners than in steady relationships .

* Becoming a teen parent seems more realistic than abstaining from sex, getting married, or having a successful future. Young people in the study report that they are growing up in environments where sex is commonplace, marriage is rare, and teen parenthood is the norm. Teen parenthood carries little stigma; in fact, for many having a child at an early age is seen as a positive step. Many young people believe that "everyone is doing it," a message that they said was constantly reinforced by the media.

* Parents can help, but they often don't. Many in the study say that adults are contributing to the problem of early, casual sex by (1) trying to act "young" and engaging in risky sexual behavior themselves, (2) offering overt or tacit approval for early sex, pregnancy, and parenthood, or (3) refusing to discuss sex and related issues with their children. Teens in the study agree with teens nationwide: their parents are their most preferred source of information about sex.

"The young people who shared their views in the MEE study are beacons of hope, not just causes for concern," Brown said. "Even though their life experiences are quite different, teens in this study hold views about sex that are strikingly similar to what we are hearing from teens across the nation," Brown said. "Regardless of income, race or residence, the teens in this study - like all teens - want parental

support and guidance but say that the adults often let them down. They feel a lot of pressure to have sex, find that pressure hard to counter, and say that they wish they'd waited longer to become sexually active - as do two-thirds of teens nationwide."

The full report includes a literature review; interviews with 10 experts on sexuality, the media and public health; and a media consumption and lifestyles survey of 2,000 African American teens and young adults. The young people who participated in this study live in households with less than \$25,000 in annual income. Research sites were Baltimore, Maryland; New York City, New York; Los Angeles/Long Beach and Oakland/Richmond, California; Chicago, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; Detroit, Michigan; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Atlanta, Georgia. The report is accompanied by a documentary video featuring excerpts from the focus groups and expert interviews.

"Before anyone judges these youth for their sexual behavior, understand that this is their reality, and that these young people are products of the socioeconomic and cultural influences in their environment. There's no higher priority than educating these youth so that they can make better choices about their bodies and their lives," says Dr. Robert Ross, CEO of the California Endowment, a co-sponsor of the report.

For more information: The National Campaign is providing a brief summary of the report that pulls out themes and findings that are most relevant to preventing teen pregnancy. To view the National Campaign's summary of This Is My Reality - The Price of Sex: An Inside Look at Black Urban Youth Sexuality, please visit:

<<http://www.teenpregnancy.org>>
www.teenpregnancy.org .

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ASYLUM TO BATTERED WOMEN

(cont'd from page 6)

when the violence they had endured at home continued on American soil. Immigration officials do not know how many of the roughly 250,000 asylum cases awaiting disposition have been filed by such women, but they believe the numbers are small. Karen Musalo, director of the Center for Gender and Refugee Studies at the University of California Hastings College of the Law, represents Mrs. Alvarado and has tracked about 500 pending gender-asylum cases.

But critics of the Department of Homeland Security's proposal fear that the new rules will encourage a flood of frivolous asylum claims from poor women around the world.

"How can we provide permanent residency to everyone who is fleeing an unfortunate domestic or social situation where the government is alleged to be non-responsive?" asked Dan Stein of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which seeks to limit immigration. "This is stretching the bounds of common sense."

In its brief, the Department of Homeland Security counters that the policy will affect only a "limited number of victims of domestic violence" who can prove that they meet the strict criteria for asylum seekers. Asylum seekers must demonstrate a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. For years, advocates for immigrants have argued that women in certain circumstances can constitute a particular social group.

Joe D. Whitley, general counsel for the Homeland Security Department,
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ASYLUM TO BATTERED WOMEN

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explained in the brief that victims of domestic violence seeking asylum should show that the abuse was "supported by the legal system or social norms in the country in question."

Mrs. Cinto, who left Mexico in 2002, said the police there repeatedly ignored the abuse she suffered. She moved to the United States, and when her husband continued to beat her here, friends at a local church directed her to a domestic shelter in New York. Sanctuary for Families, a nonprofit group that supports victims of domestic violence, helped her file a petition for asylum last year.

Across the country, Mrs. Alvarado has been waiting almost a decade for her case to be decided. She has been separated during that time from her parents and two children, who still live in Guatemala. "It hasn't been easy," she said. "But I know that if I win my case, other women like myself are going to be helped."

####

FOSTERING MINDS AND FAMILIES ON EAST TEXAS COLLEGE CAMPUS-Housing Program Gives Women The Chance To Be Mothers And Students

March 29, 2004-

By KIM HORNER / *The Dallas Morning News*
LUFKIN, Texas -- Life was bleak and the future bleaker.

None of the three women had more than a high school diploma, two had left bad marriages, and one -- a child herself -- had a daughter at age 14.

They all faced juggling two or more low-wage jobs to pay for rent, child care and other expenses.

But all three clung to a hope: That they could start over and raise their children on their own.

That hope is slowly becoming reality in the most unlikely of settings, on a small college campus in a quiet cul-de-sac among the piney woods of this East Texas town.

The three women -- Minerva Palomino, Terri Bobalik Daigle and Janet Aldredge -- are among 36 mothers living in a cluster of neatly kept duplexes called the Buckner Family Place. There they receive rent subsidies, on-site child care and counseling.

And they have an opportunity they never thought would be in their grasp: They're full-time college students, living on campus. In fact, they're required to attend Angelina College if they want to live at Buckner Family Place.

"These are some bright people. They've just had a rough road," said Angelina College President Larry Phillips. "Do they always succeed? No. But they have a chance. They have a life raft."

Ms. Palomino said the program has meant a second chance for her and her 6-year-old daughter, Hillary.

"If I didn't live here, I'd be working two or three jobs, not being able to go to school," said Ms. Palomino, 20.

Buckner Family Place opened in 1997 after officials at Dallas-based Buckner Baptist Benevolences, Angelina College and the Women's Shelter of East Texas Inc. began seeing an increasing number of women in the same dilemma -- single parents who want to work, raise their children and go to college.

In most cases, the women have been in abusive relationships, Buckner officials said.

Today, the program, which survives on a mix of government and private funding, has 40 units -- double the number from opening day. Residents pay a portion of the rent based on their incomes.

Unique setting

While a number of programs nationwide may offer housing, counseling, child care and educational opportunities, it's the campus setting that makes Buckner Family Place unique.

In 1999, the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities recognized Angelina College with an excellence award for the Buckner program. Early-education students use the on-site child care as a training lab.

Buckner Baptist Benevolences, which turns 125 this year, runs children's homes, retirement centers, foster-care programs, adoption services and international missions. It has expanded the Buckner Family Place concept to Midland and Amarillo and hopes to bring the program to Dallas.

Their neighborhood

Residents at Buckner Family Place live in their own two-bedroom, furnished duplexes on the Angelina campus. The pine trees behind the homes make for a peaceful setting, a sharp contrast to the homes most left.

The women take their kids to the on-site day-care center in the morning, then walk to classes. They study in the afternoons, and they spend time with their children in the evenings.

Attending religious services is encouraged but not required in the faith-based program.

Ms. Palomino said the Buckner Family Place is a haven for someone who had to grow up fast. The young mother said that as a teen, she got involved with an older crowd and made some bad decisions. The father of her child is no longer in

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FOSTERING MINDS AND FAMILIES ON EAST TEXAS COLLEGE CAMPUS

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the picture, she said.

On a recent evening, Ms. Palomino filled out scholarship applications because she wants to continue her studies, possibly in radiology. Hillary played with dolls in her room, decorated in pink with framed Barbie posters.

Outside, Ms. Bobalik Daigle, 40, chatted with neighbors as she pulled her 5-year-old twin daughters, Layne and Casey, in a wagon.

"We end up like a little family here," she said. "We keep each others' kids if you need to go somewhere or if you just need a 30-minute timeout."

Noses to the grindstone

On May 14, Ms. Palomino will receive her associate's degree in the legal assistant program. She got her cap and gown last week.

Ms. Bobalik Daigle is working to become a nurse.

Ms. Aldredge, 40, who lives at Buckner with her three sons, will receive a two-year nursing degree in May. She already has a job lined up.

But not everyone is a success story.

About half the residents don't finish their associate's degrees or other programs within a year of leaving Buckner Family Place, officials said.

"The idea is when you come here, you're going to put your nose to the grindstone, so when you leave you can support your family and you can be truly self-sufficient," said Buckner Family Place administrator Judy S. Morgan.

But some get distracted by family problems or falling in love. Some don't make the grades needed to stay in the program. Some have a hard time with the rules: No smoking in the duplex or on the grounds. No candles. No pets. No visitors before 5:30 p.m. or after 10 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

Participants also must turn in copies of their report cards.

Buckner Family Place, which recently admitted its 125th resident, screens and tests applicants to make sure they can handle college classes.

Brenda Dunn, program manager at Buckner, said many of the women have such chaotic backgrounds they have a hard time adjusting to the structure and the calm environment.

Many are the first in their families to go to college. Health care, paralegal and social work programs are most popular among residents, but a growing number has decided to pursue four-year degrees to go into teaching.

Even if the participants don't finish school, officials said, what may be more important are the examples they're setting for their children.

"I believe a majority of these kids are college-bound," Ms. Morgan said. "They talk to us about what they're going to be when they grow up. They're going to be architects or software designers."

Ms. Aldredge said moving her family from a four-bedroom home into the smaller Buckner Family Place duplex wasn't easy. But now that she's about to graduate, it will be hard to leave, she said.

"The closer it gets time for us to move, the more sad it is," she said. "On the other hand, I'm thankful. What we were supposed to do here, we did it."

####

SURVEY

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times more likely to report violence at the hands of their partners than other Oregon women.

Women who reported violence dur-

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ing the past five years had higher rates of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal thoughts and substance abuse.

"The impact of intimate partner violence extends beyond physical injuries," Kohn said. "Many Oregon women suffer long-term consequences of past abuse."

Maggie Jordan, managing director of victims' services for Community Works of Medford, said more than 99 percent of the intimate partner violence is committed by men against women.

"Something must be in place in society that allows that to continue," she said. "I'm not a man-basher, but I think there's such an acceptance of the fact that men rule the roost."

####

What If: How Declines in Teen Births Have Reduced Poverty and Increased Child Well-Being

If the teen birth rate had not declined between 1991 and 2002, there would have been an additional 470,000 children living in poverty. Read about this and other important new findings in a new report from the U.S. Congress' House and Ways Committee Democrats.

Sexual Activity Increases for High School Girls, Decreases For High School Students Overall

More high school 12th grade girls (62%) than boys (61%) now report having had sexual intercourse, according to the new 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) released on 5/21/04 by U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. YRBS surveys are conducted every two years.

Both reports are on the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Web Site at <http://www.teenpregnancy.org>

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MAY IS TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION MONTH- VISIT THE CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCY WEB SITE AT: [HTTP://WWW.TEENPREGNANCY.ORG](http://www.teenpregnancy.org)

Teen Pregnancy Rate per 1,000 Girls Aged 15-19, 2000—February, 2004 *From Teen Pregnancy Prevention web site.*

<u>State</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Rank</u>
North Dakota	42	1	Oregon	79	28
Vermont	44	2	Colorado	82	29
New Hampshire	47	3	Oklahoma	86	30
Minnesota	50	4	Illinois	87	31
Maine	52	5	Louisiana	87	32
Utah	53	6	Tennessee	89	33
South Dakota	54	7	South Carolina	89	34
Iowa	55	8	New Jersey	90	35
Wisconsin	55	9	Alabama	90	36
Nebraska	59	10	New York	91	37
Massachusetts	60	11	Maryland	91	38
Pennsylvania	60	12	Hawaii	93	39
Montana	60	13	Delaware	93	40
Idaho	62	14	Arkansas	93	41
Rhode Island	67	15	North Carolina	95	42
West Virginia	67	16	Georgia	95	43
Kansas	69	17	California	96	44
Connecticut	70	18	Florida	97	45
Virginia	72	19	Texas	101	46
Indiana	73	20	New Mexico	103	47
Alaska	73	21	Mississippi	103	48
Missouri	74	22	Arizona	104	49
Ohio	74	23	Nevada	113	50
Michigan	75	24			
Washington	75	25	District of Columbia	128	
Kentucky	76	26			
Wyoming	77	27	United States	84	

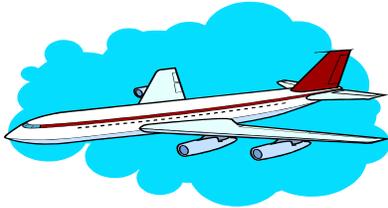
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CONFERENCES



Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter

Description: Eligible grantees: Rural grantees- A three-day training for men's nonviolence class facilitators. This training presents a theoretical framework for working with men who batter and demonstrates how to facilitate structured, interactive nonviolence classes using the Duluth Model curriculum. **Date:** July 28-30, 2004 **Time:**

Please contact the organizer for more information **Location:** Duluth, MN **Contact:** Register: Janice Wick at 218-525-0487 x100 or

ruralta@praxisinternational.org You may also register online at www.praxisinternational.org

Power Tools You Can Use

Description: The New Mexico Coalition will be hosting their Fourth Annual Conference. **Date:** July 28-30 **Time:** 8-5 **Location:** Albuquerque, NM Marriott Hotel **Contact:** Call Carissa at (505) 246-9240 or visit our website at www.nmcdv.org

12th Annual Colloquium of The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

Description: For more information about this conference, please review the informational flyer at <http://www.apsac.org/documents/hollywood.pdf>.

Date: August 4 - 7, 2004

Time: Contact organizer.

Location: Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood, CA.

Contact: John Madden at (405) 271-8202 or john-madden@ouhsc.edu

Law Enforcement Train-the-Trainer Program—Description:

Battered Women's Justice Project-Criminal Office-Eligible grantees: GTEA-A two-track law enforcement train-the-trainer for beginning and advanced law enforcement trainers. Recommended for: Prosecutors, advocates and law enforcement. **Date:** August 4-6, 2004

Time: Please contact the organizer for more information **Location:** Minneapolis, MN. **Contact:** Register: Contact Kristine Lizdas at 612-824-8762 / 800-903-0111 x1 or crimjust@bwjp.org

National Conference on Domestic Violence and the Hip Hop Generation

Description: The Hip Hop generation is approximately between the ages of 15 to 38 years. There is ample data available that suggests that this age group is under siege with high rates of intimate partner violence, suicide and homicide. Please join us at York College in Jamaica (Queens), New York for this important conference. **Date:** August 8-10, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizers for more information **Location:** The Campus of York College, Queens, NY **Contact:** For Registration information, please visit the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community website at: www.dvinstitute.org Or call: 1-877-643-8222

Tribal Domestic Violence Codes: Draft, Adopt, and Implement- A Hands-On Workshop: Advocacy for Children of Native Women Who Have Been Battered

Description: Sacred Circle- Eligible grantees: Tribal grantees, rural grantees may choose to attend a limited number of Sacred Circle trainings in lieu of Praxis trainings. **Date:** August 11-13, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information. **Location:** Minneapolis, MN. **Contact:** Register: Sacred Circle at 877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) or email: scircle@sacred-circle.com

National Tribal Trial College Insti -

tute on Divorce, Child Custody, and Support-Description:

Southwest Center for Law & Policy-Eligible grantees: Multi . The National Tribal Trial College Institute on Divorce, Child Custody, and Support is a three day interactive training for civil attorneys and lay legal advocates representing Native women in divorce, child custody and support actions in state and Tribal courts. Recommended for: Civil attorneys and tribal court civil lay legal advocates **Date:** August 17-19, 2004

Time: Please contact the organizer for more for more information.

Location: Portland, OR **Contact:** Register: Contact Arlene O'Brien at 520-623-8192 or email at obrien@swclap.org. Additional info: www.swclap.org

Domestic Violence Strangulation: Coordinating Dispatch, Police, Medical, Prosecution and Advocacy Responses-Description:

Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP) Eligible grantees: GTEA. This training is presented by internationally recognized experts in the criminal justice response to domestic violence field of strangulation: San Diego Assistant City Attorney, Prosecutor Gael Strack; Dr. and Drs. George McClane, of Sharp-Grossmount Medical Center in San Diego and also of the clinical faculty at Stanford University School of Medicine; and Dr. Dean Hawley, forensic pathologist of the Indiana School of Medicine. **Date:** August 19-20, 2004

Time: Please contact the organizers for more information **Location:** San Diego, CA **Contact:** Register: Contact Carolyn Hamm at 612-824-8768 or ham@bwjp.org

Crimes Against Children Conference-Dallas Children's Advocacy Center-Date:

August 23-26, 2004, Dallas, Tx. **Contact:** Dallas Children's Advocacy Center-P.O. Box 720338, Dallas, Tx. 75372-0338. Phone: (214) 818-4070. E-mail: sandra@dcac.org. Web site: <http://www.dcac.org>

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CONFERENCES

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In Our Best Interest– A Process for Personal and Social Change– Description: Eligible grantees: Rural grantees-A two-day training ofr battered women, advocates, women's group facilitators, and community activists on the Duluth curriculum In Our Best Interest. . **Location:** Duluth, MN

Contact: Register: Janice Wick at 218-525-0487 x100 or uralta@praxisinternational.org You may also register online at www.praxisinternational.org

Ending Domestic Violence in Arizona: 2004 State Training Conference Description: Who should attend? Judicial officers, probation officers, law enforcement, prosecutors, attorneys, court personnel, child protection professionals, domestic violence advocates, domestic violence service providers, offender treatment professionals, children's service providers, health care professionals, educators. Hosted by:

- Men's Anti-violence Network
- Office of Governor Janet Napolitano

Conference fee: \$35 (includes lunch) Seating limited.Continuing educational credits available.**Date:** August 31, 2004 **Time:** 8:30am – 4:30 pm **Location:** Westin Kierland Resort, AZ

Contact: For more information, call the Governor's Division for Women at (602) 542-3463 or e-mail Istor-mant@az.gov

Building Partnerships, Creating Access: A National Conference Dedicated to Ending Violence Against Women with Disabilities And Women Who are Deaf -**Description:** This conference will provide an in-depth look at issues of violence against women and its intersection with people with disabilities. **Date:** August 31-September 2, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information **Location:** San Jose, CA. **Contact:** Email: projec-

taccess@calcasa.org

Creating a Process of Change for Men Who Batter -**Description:** Eligible grantees: Rural grantees- A three-day training for men's nonviolence class facilitators. **Date:** September 1-3, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information. **Location:** Duluth, MN. **Contact:** Register: Janice Wick at 218-525-0487 x100 or ruralta@praxisinternational.org

You may also register online at www.praxisinternational.org

Building Families Through Faith-Basd Adoption-Location: Queensboro Church of God, 1260 Jewella Ave., Shreveport, La. **Dates:** September 1 & 2, 2004. **Contact:** Jacqueline Garrison at (318) 274-3300; garrisonj@gram.edu.

Domestic Violence: Train-the-Trainer Program

Description: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (FLETC and NCDSV). This is a five-day train-the-trainer program. Recommended for: Law enforcement officer trainer, advocates from domestic violence organizations, prosecutors and judges from rural jurisdictions. **Date:** September 13-17 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information **Location:** Ashland, NC. **Contact:** Register: Contact Gary Loberg at 1-800-743-5382 ext.3669 or Garyoberg@dhs.gov ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Juliet Walters at jwalters@ncdsv.org or 512-407-9020 for questions regarding class and agenda information.

Building a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

Description: Eligible grantees: Rural grantees. This three- day institute is designed to help participants: Assess their community's current response **Date:** September 15-17, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information. **Location:** Duluth,

MN **Contact:** Register: Janice Wick at 218-525-0487 x100 or www.praxisinternational.org

Probation: Systems' Approach to Domestic Violence Offender Monitoring-Description: This workshop describes the process for establishing and operating a tribal domestic violence specific probation department. **Date:** September 15-17, 2004 **Time:** Please contact organizer for more information **Location:** Albuquerque, NM **Contact:** Sacred Circle -Phone: 877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) -Email scircle@sacred-circle.com

Connections: Chemical Dependency and Battering-Probation: Systems' Approach to Domestic Violence Offender Monitoring-Description: Sacred Circle-Eligible grantees: Tribal grantees, rural grantees may choose to attend a limited number of Sacred Circle trainings in lieu of Praxis trainings. **Date:** September 15-17, 2004 **Time:** Please contact the organizer for more information **Location:** Albuquerque, NM **Contact:** Register: Sacred Circle at 877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) or email scircle@sacred-circle.com

ISPCAN 15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect

Description: The International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) is hosting the 15th International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect. participants. Hosted by NAPCAN - A National Partner of ISPCAN. **Date:** September 19 - 22, 2004 **Time:** Contact ISPCAN for more information. **Location:** Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre Brisbane, Queensland Australia **Contact:** SECRETARIAT OFFICE C/- ICMS PO Box 3496 South Brisbane Qld 4101 Australia Tel: + 61 7 3844 1138 Fax: +61 7 3844 0909 Email: ispcan2004@icms.com.au

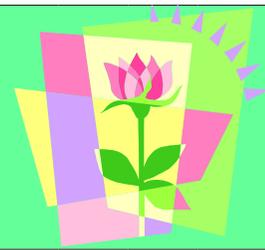
Coalition Advocate & Attorney Network Meeting -Description: This is a

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CONFERENCES

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meeting of advocates and attorneys working in state coalitions on issues of policy and practice. **Date:** September 19-21, 2004-**Location:** Boston, MA **Contact:** Christine Pfau Laney, Esq. . Battered Women's Justice Project-Civil Phone: 800-903-0111 ext.2 Email: cpl@pcadv.org.

Connections: Chemical Dependency and Battering-Probation: Systems' approach to Domestic Violence Offender Monitoring

Description: Sacred Circle Eligible grantees: Tribal grantees, rural grantees may choose to attend a limited number of Sacred Circle trainings in lieu of Praxis trainings. This workshop is designed for advocates, mental health practitioners and chemical dependency counselors working with Native women who are battered and Native men who batter when one or both are so chemically dependent. Chemical dependency increases the intensity and frequency of battering;

battering increases the likelihood of relapse. Appropriate response enhancing women's safety and offender accountability are complicated by this combination of factors. **Date:** September 15-17, 2004-**Location:** Albuquerque, NM-Contact: Register: Sacred Circle at 877-RED-ROAD (733-7623) or email scircle@sacred-circle.com

9th International Conference on Family Violence: Working Together To End Abuse

Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI) **Date:** 9/17/2004 - 09/22/2004 **Location:** San Diego, CA Family Violence & Sexual Assault

9th International Conference on Family Violence-Date: September 17-22, 2004; Pre-Conference workshops begin on Sunday, 9/19. Full conference

begins Monday, 9/20. Training Institutes on Friday 9/17/17 and Saturday 9/18. **Location:** Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. Reservations: 1-800-854-2608; Conference registration: fvtrain2@alliant.edu. **Housing: Accessing and Maintaining Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence-** Description: Legal Assistance Providers' Technical Outreach Project (LAPTOP) Eligible grantees: Multi-This institute will focus on accessing and maintaining housing for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, with particular emphasis on the prevention of eviction/foreclosure and the implications of bankruptcy. **Date: September 28, 2004 -Location:** Minneapolis, MN - Register: Contact Jennifer White at (800) 256-5883 x119 for further information.

Raising Kin: The Psychosocial Well-being of Substance-affected Children in Relative Care-National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center **Date:** 09/27/2004 - 09/28/2004 **Location:** Chicago, IL -John Krall, LCSW; National Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center, UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare 1950 Addison Street-Suite 104 Berkeley, CA 94720-7402; Phone: 510-643-8832;510-643-7020;510-643-7019 jkrall@uclink.berkeley.edu http://aia.berkeley.edu/training/nual_conference.html

Connecting the Pieces: Family Violence, Substance Abuse and Children At-Risk -Description: The overall goal of the Children's Network is to help children at risk by improving communication, planning, coordination and cooperation among youth serving agencies; identifying gaps and overlaps in services; providing a forum for clarifying perceptions and expectations among agencies and between agencies and the

community; setting priorities for inter-agency projects; and implementing collaborative programs, public and private, to better serve children and youth.-

Date: September 29 & 30, 2004

Location: Ontario, California

Contact: Jennifer Celise-Reyes Child Abuse Prevention Conference and Events Coordinator Children's Network - San Bernardino County jcelise-reyes@hss.sbcounty.gov (909) 387-8966 (909) 387-4656 fax Visit our website at <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/childnet/>

Texas Council on Family Violence-Annual Conference-October 3-6, 2004-Renaissance Hotel, Austin, Tx.

Visit web site: <http://www.tcfv.org>.

"The Changing Role" of the Criminal Justice System-"The Changing Role" of Public Health-Domestic and Sexual Violence Conference 2004-Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault- Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.- Oklahoma City Marriott-1-800-228-9290 **Date:** October 6 and 7, 2004-**Contact: OCAD-VSA at 405-848-1815; ocadvsa.org/training.htm.**

2004 National Conference on Health Care and Domestic Violence: Health Consequence Over the Lifespan-

Description: The conference will broaden the discussion on health impacts, co-occurring issues, and responses related to victims, children, perpetrators, and communities affected by domestic violence and childhood exposure to violence in the home.

Date: October 21-23, 2004

Time: Please contact the organizer for more information

Location: Boston, MA

Contact: Mari Spera

Family Violence Prevention Fund

Phone: (415) 252-8900 ext. 20

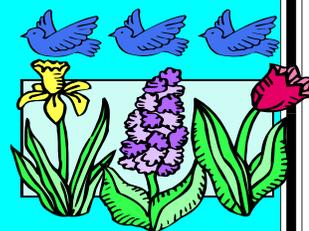
Email: mari@endabuse.org

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CONFERENCES

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broaden the discussion on health impacts, co-occurring issues, and responses related to victims, children, perpetrators, and communities affected by domestic violence and childhood exposure to violence in the home.

Date: October 21-23, 2004— **Location:** Boston, MA. Contact: Mari Spira-Family Violence Prevention Fund. Phone: (415) 252-8900 ext. 20. Email: mari@endabuse.org.

WEB SITES



U. S. Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office: <http://www.usdoj.gov/vawo>.

Office of Women's Health: <http://www.healthfinder.gov/justforyou/women/default.htm>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/owh/home.htm>.

Family Violence Prevention Fund: <http://www.igc.org/fund>

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: <http://www.ncadv.org/>

National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://www.ncvc.org/>

State Domestic Violence Coalitions: <http://www.usdoj.gov/vawo/state.htm>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov>.

Federal grants: <http://www.fedgrants.gov>.

NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund: <http://www.nowldef.org>

Minnesota Center Against Violence & Abuse: <http://www.mincava.unm.edu>

Toolkit to End Violence Against Women—<http://www.toolkit.ncjrs.org>.

The American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence—<http://www.abnet.org/publiced/domviol.html>.

National Domestic Violence Hotline— 1-800799-SAFE (7233); 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

THE SPOTLIGHT is a quarterly publication of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Region VI, Dallas, Texas. **THE SPOTLIGHT** communicates information on Domestic Violence, Substance Abuse and Teen Pregnancy Prevention programs, services, conferences and other activities to our Region VI State, Tribal, local and federal partners. Region VI is comprised of the States of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

Please send articles or items of interest to:

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