



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Laura M. Velez, Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Welfare & Community Services
NYS Office of children & Family Services
52 Washington St.
Rensselaer NY 12144-2834

Dear Deputy Commissioner Velez:

Dutchess County recently re-bid its non-residential domestic violence services which resulted in the need to make some minor changes to the County's Child and Family Services Plan Appendix J for the period 2012-2016. We discussed this matter with Pamela Jobin in your Agency and she instructed us to send a letter outlining what we have done. Below is a description of the changes that we made in the Appendix J's for the two non-residential service providers that we have in Dutchess County.

Family Services, Inc.

1. Remove optional Domestic Violence Education Prevention Program services from this provider.
2. Add High Risk Domestic Violence Case management Services (see attached description).

Grace Smith House

1. Add child care for victims of domestic violence residing in a DV shelter or safe home while they locate suitable housing, participate in employment activities and engage in other activities that result in self-sufficiency.
2. Add Domestic Violence Education Prevention Program services (see attached description).

If you have any questions concerning this please contact Bridget Goddard, Assistant to the Commissioner, at 845-486-3007 or bridget.goddard@dfa.stat.ny.us. Please let us know if these changes are approved.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Allers", written over a circular blue ink stamp.

Robert B. Allers
Commissioner

Family Services Inc.

High Risk Domestic Violence Case Management Services

The High Risk Case Management Program is an extension of the Universal Response to Domestic Violence and will be integral in continuing momentum towards the Universal Response to Domestic Violence's high risk case conferencing initiative.

The goals of the High Risk Case Management Program are to;

- Identify high risk cases by using research based lethality assessments
- Interrupt the escalation of violence by creating individualized intervention and safety plans.
- Improve victims access to community based services
- Improve the victims trust in the criminal justice system
- Increase strangulation cases that are identified, charged, and prosecuted.
- Increase number of victim contacts
- Shift our methods of victim protection away from shelter based solutions.

Family Services proposes that the High Risk Case Management Program provide a full time case manager to work with high risk victims of domestic violence throughout Dutchess County. The case manager will accept referrals from all agencies and systems working with victims of domestic violence. Risk assessments will be used to identify high risk cases to be referred to the case manager.

Risk assessments will form the basis for the individualized intervention and safety plans which will be developed collaboratively by the case manager, victim, and other necessary agencies. Considering the lethality level of each case, risk assessments and intervention plans will be updated continuously.

The case manager will focus on responding to high risk victims' need for intensive case management assistance in their efforts to become independent, in addition to addressing their basic need for safety. This support is a critical bridge to self-sufficiency for victims; without it victims stay or return to their abuser, and have increased chances of re-assault and homicide. Our goal is to provide intensive case management and to link these clients with resources and services in the community. The case manager will be creative in finding clients resources that aid in their journey to independence and safety.

The goal of this High Risk Case Management Project is to connect with victims on a priority basis to provide relevant support including safety planning and emotional support. High risk cases require great detail in safety planning, more frequent contacts, increased child safety concerns, and detailed referrals to services. The high risk case manager will work with the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Project Coordinator to address system gaps and communicate with related agencies.

The case manager will be integral as the high risk team develops. The case manager will be an important liaison to the team. Once developed the case manager will work with the high risk team to meet the goals of the team.

Domestic Violence High Risk Case Management Outcomes

- High risk survivors of domestic violence will increase their safety
- Enhanced coordinated community and criminal justice responses to high risk domestic violence incidents will maximize offender accountability and enhance victim safety

Domestic Violence High Risk Case Management Staffing

High Risk Case Manager - BA or MA in counseling, psychology or human services field plus 3 years relevant experience. Counseling, advocacy, crisis intervention, community organizing, public speaking, and related work experience preferred, as well as in-depth knowledge of domestic violence systems. Willingness to work flexible hours required.

Grace Smith House

Youth Domestic Violence Education Services

The concept that there are safe actions that bystanders can take has gained traction across the country, by showing that it isn't enough to give information; it is also essential to model skills of how to react when specific instances arise. These skills can be taught, practiced and re-enforced.

Bystander intervention refers to a person deciding to voice their opinion about someone else's language and/or behavior, thereby working to prevent violence or abuse. (Adapted from exercise created by CDC staff and DELTA national collaborative, wwdv.org 5 December 2011) The basis for the active bystander intervention model describes a method to refocus and expand efforts from an individual's responsibility within a dating relationship to the responsibility of a community that allows, or refuses to see, gender violence as it occurs. This model is being used throughout the country and is promoted by such groups as Mentors in Violence Prevention.™. Jackson Katz, the founder of Mentors in Violence Prevention states, "Many People mistakenly believe that they have only two options in instances of actual or potential violence: intervene physically and expose themselves to possible personal harm or do nothing. As a result they often choose to do nothing." (Jacksonkatz.com, MVP strategies, 3 December 2011.) Grace Smith House presently employs one staff member who has completed the MVP Gender Violence Prevention Gender Prevention Institute, As such she is qualified to provide direct services as a Mentors in Violence Prevention presenter to high school and college students, in agreement with the program she is allowed to train one other person in the method, providing that person acts as a co-facilitator with her in group presentations.

The Mentors in Violence Program promote a broad range of interactive approaches to engage and challenge students in mixed and single gender settings to influence with students change the atmosphere where violence takes place. This is a research-based program that has worked well in other areas. These approaches are used to help youth become sensitized to the prevalence of dating violence and provide them with strategies that they can use when, as a community member, they encounter dating violence.

Volunteers will provide the Youth Education Coordinator with support for the use of social media in reaching teens. This will include researching and prescreening websites that address teen dating violence in interactive ways, for instance, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (www.NSRV.org/projects/150_bystander-intervention-resources) is a clearinghouse for dozens of sites that point to bystander awareness and intervention programs that presently exist. The many sites include age appropriate interactive websites for teens and teens, males and females as well as LGBTQ teens. This information will be made available through presentations, flyers, leafleting and such social media sites as Face book, twitter and blogging.

Domestic Violence Youth Education Outcomes

- 6 School systems will make use of an Active bystander Intervention lesson plan.
- 750 Students and 500 Community members will receive presentations, literature and discussion of a safe active bystander intervention model that can be used to prevent and intervene in Teen Dating Violence.
- Crisis intervention and referral will be provided to 30 youth that is either referred by agencies or who self-refer after school presentations.
- Volunteers will actively participate through the course of the program year.
- Each year at least 3 staff/volunteers will be trained in the Mentors Against Violence Institute, they will, in turn, train 3 co-facilitators and teams of 5 volunteers each to build capacity and be able to provide facilitation support.

Domestic Violence Youth Education Staffing

Youth Education Coordinator --Bachelor's Degree preferred, plus three years domestic violence experience or Associate's Degree and 5 years of Domestic Violence Experience. A combination of volunteer development and experience as well as education.