

2009 DVC Conference

Domestic Violence, Addiction and Complex Trauma: Connecting the Dots

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Impact of Trauma on Children Join our morning keynote, Dr. John Briere, as he continues a dialog on complex trauma and domestic violence. Dr. Briere is the director of the Psychological Trauma Program at the Los Angeles County & USC Medical Center as well as the co-director of the MCAVIC-USC Child and Adolescent Trauma Program for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, SAMHSA. This morning's workshop will focus on the impact of domestic violence and complex trauma to children.

The Many Faces of Human Trafficking Human Trafficking manifests itself in multiple forms. Sometimes they are egregiously overt, like forced prostitution or child exploitation. But what happens when victims are tricked into a relationship, and even marriage, just to become their partner's unpaid servant? Many times these cases are dismissed as domestic violence, and victims suffer in silence afraid to come forward due to their immigrant status, fear, cultural issues, etc. This workshop is designed to explore the nuances of human trafficking in the context of intimate relationships, including: identifiers, legal implications, immigration protection, and advocates' role.

Teens Speak Out! Understanding and Connecting with Teens Affected by Dating Violence What is teen dating violence? Why does teen dating violence occur? How does teen dating violence impact youth? Join youth and their allies in an engaging and informative workshop to discover answers to these questions and more! Teen Peer Educators from Support Network and Teen Peer Leaders from Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence speak out about teen dating violence and share their perspectives on the issue. Emma Lucas, MSW, MPH of Community Solutions, addresses from a clinical perspective the devastating impact teen dating violence can have on youth. Use the knowledge and experience gained in this workshop to more effectively connect with teen victims and perpetrators and empower teens to develop healthy relationships.

Meeting the Needs of Military Veteran Families After deployment and discharge, returning soldiers can face many challenges including rehabilitation from injuries, trauma and PTSD, addiction and re-integration into civilian and family life. This session will explore the experiences of these veterans, their mental health needs, unique issues faced by female veterans, and how these challenges impact partner and family violence. In addition, VA and military support resources will be discussed.

Alcohol, Meth and Cocaine: Health Effects and Impact on Domestic Violence Addiction to alcohol, meth and cocaine has had profound social and economic effects on our society. In this session, we will come to understand this impact and the effects on health – how a person under the influence would appear, the short and long term physical harm, including prenatally, as well as the detox picture. Finally, we will discuss the psychological effects of these drugs, and their contribution to domestic and family violence.

Batterer's Intervention Systems in California – an Evaluation The administrative Office of the Courts will summarize the findings of their 2008 report on Batterer's Intervention Systems in California. They will then focus on issues specific to Santa Clara County and the

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workshop will end with a question and answer session. The goal is to hear a summary of the report and leave with an action plan for addressing Batterer's Intervention Systems in Santa Clara County.

Domestic Violence Death Review We will do a "mock" domestic violence related death review case. The Death Review team that will examine the "mock" case will be comprised of members of our county Death Review Team. They come from different professional disciplines within the domestic violence community i.e. law enforcement, therapists, advocates, attorneys, probation and the Department of Family and Children services. Participants will see how the process works, how we analyze the case and come up with recommendations, and "red flags" from a case not only to identify gaps in the system but also to help others learn about deadly domestic violence and its warning signals.

No Visible Injuries: Assessment Challenges in the Absence of Physical Abuse Interventions to protect against the recurrence of physical abuse are fairly well understood in our Family Court system. But many families present without allegations of physical abuse or threats of physical abuse. Instead, the abuse is primarily verbal or emotional. These cases are challenging on many levels:

- Do court systems fail to take non-physical cases seriously enough? Why is appropriate assessment so difficult?
- What types of restraining orders or parenting plans are appropriate when the abuse is strictly non-physical?
- How can we achieve better outcomes for victims of non-physical abuse?

A panel of experienced mental health professionals and two of California's leading DV judges tackle these tough questions and more.