

Child Witness to Violence Project

Boston Medical Center

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010



The Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center has a dual mission:

- 1) To help young (birth to age eight) children and their families heal from the effects of community and family violence by providing developmentally appropriate mental health services, case management and family advocacy, and
- 2) To build the capacity of community agencies and providers to identify and respond to young children affected by violence.

This report highlights our activities and accomplishments for 2010 and special projects in 2011.

Training and Consultation

In 2010, the Child Witness to Violence Project staff provided 82 trainings and 90 consultations across Massachusetts and 11 states. These trainings ranged

from one-hour lectures to two-day intensive seminars, such ones given to the Children's Advocacy Center at Niagara Falls, NY on working with children affected by

domestic violence and to the Family and Child Abuse Prevention Center in Toledo, Ohio on clinical intervention for young children affected by trauma. Highlights of our training and consultation for the year:

- CWVP graduate intern training program, providing placements for four counseling, psychology and social work interns. These interns, from diverse backgrounds, increased our capacity to offer bi-lingual and bi-cultural services to families.



- On-going consultation contracts in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, and Rhode Island.

- Two intensive 3-day seminars at Boston Medical Center on trauma-focused clinical intervention with young children. Attendance at these seminars averaged 30 participants from the Boston area and 10 states.

- CWVP staff provided a combination of training and consultation on Child-Parent Psychotherapy to the Institute for Health and Recovery in Cambridge, MA and LUK Human Services in Fitchburg, MA.

- CWVP worked with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network's Culture Consortium on adapting training and educational materials

for Latino children and families affected by trauma.

- CWVP has continued to provide training and consultation to the DOJ/OJJDP-funded Safe Start programs. On-going consultation is provided to the Ohio and Rhode Island sites. Clinicians from Safe Start sites across the country have attended the 2-day clinical training institute offered by CWVP. Program Director, Betsy McAlister Groves, LICSW has worked with Safe Start staff to develop Issue Briefs on Children Exposed to Violence was disseminated nationally. You can find more information about Safe Start and the Issue Briefs at: www.safestartcenter.org.

Services to Children and Families

Thanks to the support of the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance and the Department of Children and Families, the CWVP continues to offer free trauma-focused counseling services to children and families affected by violence. Our model of intervention is Child Parent Psychotherapy, a model that has demonstrated success in reducing trauma-related symptoms in the child and the parent, and improving the child-parent relationship.

A PROFILE OF OUR CLIENTS • 2010

- Child Witness to Violence saw 84 new clients in 2010
- The average length of involvement of families in active counseling was 4 months; however, for children whose trauma was more severe, we did provide longer-term counseling;
- 71% of our children were age 6 or younger;
- 82% were referred for exposure to domestic violence.
- Referral reasons ranged from natural disaster, having witnessed a stabbing in the neighborhood to having witnessed the violent death of a parent or siblings;
- 89% of the referrals were from Boston area providers;
- 13% of referrals were mono-lingual Spanish speakers;
- Referral sources include: hospitals & community health centers, mental health clinics, domestic violence agencies, school systems, legal services, Head Start, the Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, and the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families.
- Telephone consultation and referral services were delivered to over 400 families or agencies.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Child Witness to Violence Project's Director, Betsy McAlister Groves, was named by the U.S. Attorney General to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. This federal advisory committee will provide advice and recommendations to the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services on how to improve the Nation's response to violence against women, with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by domestic violence and sexual assault.

We are grateful to these organizations for making it possible for us to respond to our families' needs:

Church of the Covenant
Cradles to Crayons
The BMC food pantry
The Kid's Fund at Boston Medical Center
The Marigold Foundation

Projects in 2010

The Avon Foundation: Starting Early/Staying Safe: A collaboration between the Child Witness to Violence Project and the Medical-Legal Partnership | Boston to provide integrated therapeutic services and legal advocacy for the clients of Child Witness to Violence.

United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley: A grant to provide targeted outreach and services to grades K0, K1 and K2 at Lee Academy in Dorchester. A CWVP clinician spent time in the classroom incorporating social skills lessons into the early childhood curriculum, offering support to teachers and assisting with small group instruction.

Weil Foundation: A grant to expand consultation services within the Department of Pediatrics at BMC, ensuring that families have rapid access to services from CWVP.

Message from the Director

As we look back on 2010, we reflect on our achievements and our hopes for the next year. The program is blessed with a talented and dedicated staff. In addition to providing clinical services for children and families, our staff provided training to a wide range of agencies and professionals. They provided consultation in the Emergency Department and the Primary Care Clinic at the hospital, in response to the increasing numbers of children who were affected by community violence this year. They participated in the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims in Washington DC; they staffed a holiday event for mothers and children affected by domestic violence; they secured holiday gifts for all of our families; they provided testimony

to the Boston City Council about the devastating impact of community violence on children in our city's neighborhoods. Our graduate trainees who speak multiple languages and reflect the cultural diversity of our client population help us serve a wider population. Next year, we hope to expand our training capacities and to broaden our reach among the city's residents.

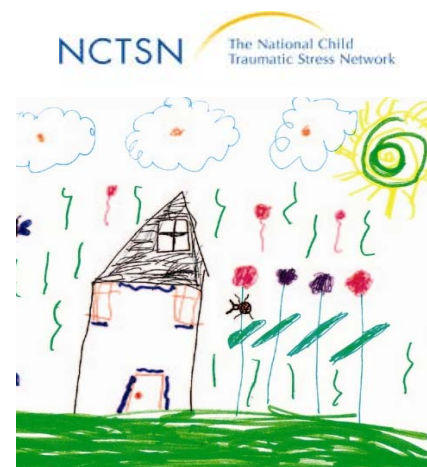
We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations that make it possible for us to provide concrete assistance to our families in the form of clothes, transportation and access to after-school and summer camp programs. We thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Betsy McAlister Groves, LICSW
Director

Thanks to our Supporters!

The Avon Foundation
The Marigold Foundation
The Weil Foundation
The Merck Foundation
Natixis Global Associates
The United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Massachusetts Office of Victims Assistance



"This is a happy house with flowers growing"

PROJECTS IN 2011:

A one-year planning grant from the US Dept, of Justice to create a strategic plan for the city of Boston to prevent and reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence. With Boston Public Health Commission as the lead agency, the Child Witness to Violence Project will partner with them to carry out a needs assessment and develop the plan. These plans will be competitively reviewed by DOJ for an implementation award in the following year.

National Learning Collaborative on Child Parent Psychotherapy. Two staff members from our program are faculty in an on-going intensive training of clinicians from throughout the United States to disseminate Child Parent Psychotherapy. The training is sponsored by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.