

Understanding Domestic Violence to Ensure the Best Interests of Children

Community Learning Council, Inc.

On-Demand Webinar: June 26 – 29, 2020

WORKSHOP SUMMARY:

Children have varied responses to domestic violence and professionals working in this field have many options to assist in their recovery. Eighty to ninety percent of children can remember the details of abusive events, even at a young age. Research confirms that children do not need to see domestic violence to be affected by it. Even when abuse is silent, as is often the case with coercive control, children can sense tension and fear. They know when it happens. This workshop examines the link between domestic violence and the emotional and behavioral trauma symptoms children exhibit as a result of this crime.

How children and adults recover from domestic abuse depends on several factors. One essential factor is a strong support system that includes healthy adult role-models, both personal and professional. During this workshop, participants will hear from licensed therapists and attorneys as they discuss their role and the steps they take (individually and together) to help children and non-offending parents find a safe place so they can work toward a healthy future.

OBJECTIVES:

- Define domestic violence, coercive control and trauma
- Review current facts and statistics of domestic violence
- Classify the effects of domestic violence on children (physical, psychological, emotional)
- Explain Intergenerational Violence
- Identify lethality risk factors (red flags) for homicide
- Review and discuss safety planning
- Discuss expert testimony
- Identify assessment tools recognized in court proceedings
- Review legislation and court actions protecting children and victims of domestic violence

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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m.** **Defining Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence:** AmyEngland-Smith, LMFT, LADC
- Introduction to Childhood Exposure**
 Facts and Myths ♦ Statistics ♦ Prenatal Exposure
- The Cycle of Abuse**
 Intergenerational Violence ♦ Relational Patterns ♦ Health Outcomes
- 10:00 a.m.** **Break**
- 10:10 a.m.** **Behavioral Characteristics of Children Who Experience Domestic Violence, (cont'd)**
 Factors that Influence Children's Reactions ♦ Immediate Responses ♦ Long Term Effects ♦
 Recognizing Internal/External Symptoms ♦ Reactions by Age Group
- Supporting Recovery**
 Trauma Informed Responses ♦ Assessment Tools ♦ Therapeutic Interventions
- 11:40** **Lunch** (included)
- 12:20 p.m.** **Best Interests of Children (ethics)**
 Donna Mathews, Esq., Chief Operating Officer, DVIS, Tulsa
 Richard Stevens, Ethics Counsel, OBA
- 1:10 p.m.** **Break**
- 1:20** **Lethality Risk and Safety Planning:** Jacqueline Steyn, LPC
- 3:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**

CANCELLATIONS:

Cancellations will be accepted at any time prior to the seminar date; however, a \$25 fee will be charged for cancellations made within four full business days of the seminar date. Cancellations, refunds, or transfers will not be accepted on or after the seminar date.

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Presenters

Amy England-Smith, LMFT, LADC, began working with children and families as an administrator and educator in 2002. In 2010, Amy earned a Master's Degree from Southern Nazarene University in Marital and Family Therapy. After graduating, Amy became a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor. Early in her career, Amy worked with low-income and at-risk individuals and families in the nonprofit sector as a therapist, adoptions and therapeutic foster care counselor. In these roles she conducted home studies, post-adoption visits and provided therapeutic intervention to clients impacted by complex trauma. In addition, Amy has worked as a mental health practitioner and substance abuse therapist at Decisions Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Programs at Integris Health. Today, Amy serves as a behavioral health counselor in the Special Services department at Edmond Public Schools. Amy is also a tireless researcher and speaker on addiction, domestic violence, trauma informed practices and other issues affecting vulnerable populations and their well-being.

Jacqueline Steyn, LPC, is a domestic violence professional with 18 years of experience working with and on behalf of victims of domestic violence and their children. She was formally the Program Manager for the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board for six years at the Office of the Attorney General. Jacqueline's domestic violence experience began in the Children's Counseling Program at the YWCA, Oklahoma City and then later as the Chief Programs and Compliance Officer. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has practiced as a mental health professional for over 30 years in a variety of inpatient and outpatient settings. She has held various academic posts and is currently on faculty at OSU-OKC in the Crime Victims Survivor Services (CVSS) program. Ms. Steyn regularly trains victim advocates, batterer intervention group facilitators, mental health and substance abuse professionals, child welfare workers, attorneys and court personnel. She is a past and present member of several committees, task forces and commissions with the specific intent to improve safety and services for victims of domestic violence and their children.

G. Gail Stricklin, JD, a graduate of the University of Tulsa, College of Law and Newcomb College of Tulane University, has been volunteering her legal expertise for over 35 years in the area of family violence, including legal representation of adult and children victims; running legislation; serving over a decade on the statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board and Child Death Review Board as the Oklahoma Bar Association representative; and participating in educational continuing legal education seminars for the Office of the Attorney General, Annual DV/SA Partnership Conference, Oklahoma Bar Association, Latino Agency, DHSCSS, Legal Aid Services Corporation among other organizations. She also served on private boards of non-profit corporations including the YWCA of Oklahoma City where she spent 20 years providing legal advice to residents of the DV shelter. She currently spends her semi-retirement practicing law in the oil and gas area as well as participating in volunteer interests.

Donna Mathews, Esq., Chief Operating Officer, DVIS, Tulsa

Richard Stevens, Ethics Counsel, OBA