

IMPROVING OUR RESPONSE TO

Families Experiencing Domestic Violence



October 26, 2023

What we'll be talking about

1

How does child welfare respond in cases of DV?

2

What about current responses is harmful? How could child welfare be more helpful?

3

Thinking about our individual roles and systemic reform

Guidelines for Digital Dialogue

Please Participate

- Phone lines are muted but Q & A and chat boxes are active throughout
- Please participate in audience polls as they come up

Materials Will Be Available

Within a week of the Digital Dialogue, the CBLCC website will have posted:

- The recording
- The slide deck

Multiple Choice

Have you worked with families experiencing domestic violence?

Response Options:

- Yes
- No

Open Response

What aspects of your work with families experiencing domestic violence was the most challenging?

Please respond in the Chat.

Poll Questions

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Presenter



Sara Block, JD

Managing Director at Ascend
Justice, Academic Program
Director/Professor at Loyola
University Chicago School of
Law, Author of "Together
Unbroken",

Thinking About Terms

- Defining Domestic Violence
- What We Know About Perpetrators and Victims





Why are these cases so challenging?

- Main tool of child welfare intervention is removal
- Pervasive victim blaming derived from moral constructions
- Struggles to meaningfully engage with the parent using violence and coercive control
- Fear, burden, and liability

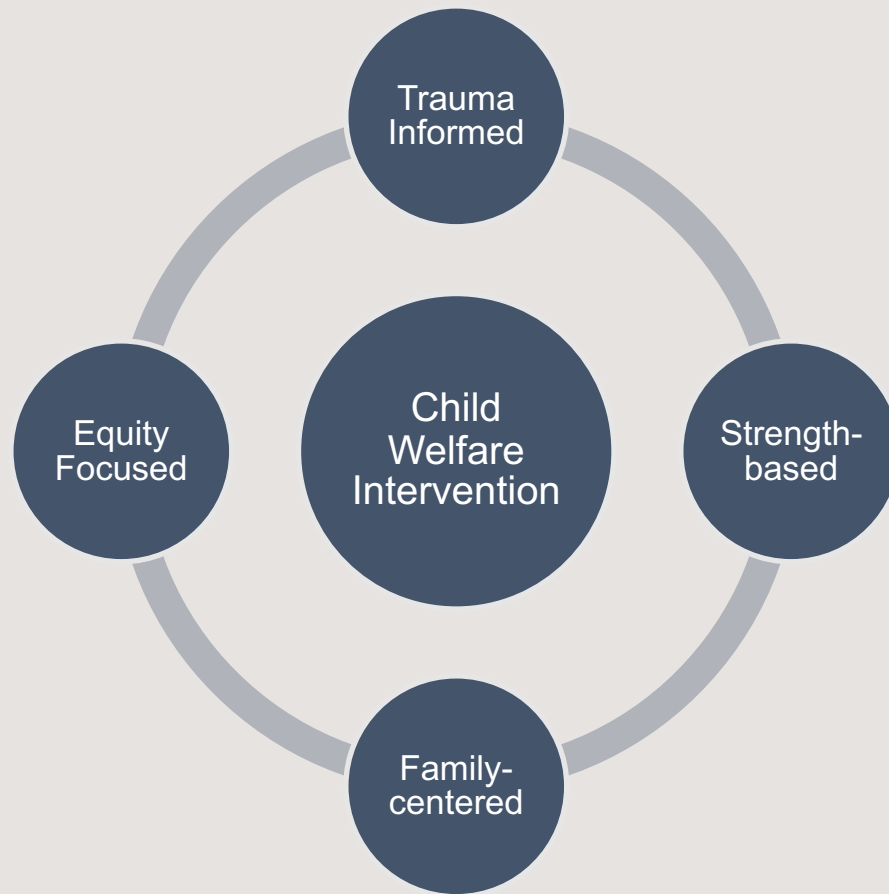


When Child Welfare Gets Involved

- Regulation of families of color, disproportionality, disparity, and inequity
- Can escalate the domestic violence
- Disconnect of adult and child survivors from each other in the face of what children need to heal
- Compounding trauma
- Increased risk of abuse and neglect in foster care and poor outcomes for foster youth
- Severance from source of healing
- Failure to foster avenues of accountability
- Missed opportunities to interrupt cycle of abuse
- Freezing effect on help-seeking behavior

Moving to Solutions

Policy and Structural Changes



Moving to Solutions

Showing Up for Families



[The Adult and Child Survivor Centered Approach](#) from the Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light green top, is hugging a young boy with dark curly hair. The boy is wearing a brown shirt and looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The woman is looking down at the boy with a protective and caring gaze. They are in a bright room with a large window in the background showing greenery outside.

Thinking About Safety

Visualizing Reform



References

Child Protection in Families Experiencing Domestic Violence (2nd ed.)

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/domesticviolence2018/>

Resources from the Quality Improvement Center for Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

<https://dvchildwelfare.org/resource-library/>

National Resource Center on Domestic Violence

<https://www.nrcdv.org/>

Together Unbroken: Stories, Law Practice and Healing at the Intersection of Domestic Violence in Child Welfare

by Sara Block

<https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/424218416/>



Q&A

Please type your questions into the Q&A box.

Sara Block

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<https://www.americanbar.org/products/inv/book/424218416/>



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Thank you for Joining Us!

