



The Path To Peace Is The Road Less Traveled

Dedicated to improving policies, education, training and services that reflect the best knowledge of families and children's needs, and the real-life circumstances of 21st century children.

CONFERENCE DVDs CATALOG

From Ideology to Inclusion:
Evidence-Based Policy and Intervention in Domestic Violence

Featuring

The founders, pioneers and today's most respected experts together in this historic, one-of-a-kind conference, February 15-16, 2008, Sacramento, California

Donald Dutton, PhD * Linda Mills, PhD, LCSW, JD * Erin Pizzey * Murray Straus, PhD
Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling, PhD * Marlene Moretti, PhD * Claudia Dias, MSC, JD
John Hamel, LCSW * Nicola Graham-Kevan * Janet Johnston, PhD
Tonia Nicholls, PhD * Amy Slep, PhD * And Many More

5 Plenary and 11 Breakout Sessions. Topics Include:

Current Policy Issues * Research Trends * Male and Female Victims * DV in the LGBT Community
DV in Ethnic Minority Groups * Female Perpetrators * Mandatory Arrest
DV and Child Abuse * Gender-Inclusive and Research-Based Interventions * Family Treatment
DV and Child Custody * DV and Adolescents * Working with Victimized Children

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The Conference That These DVDs Were Produced From Was Approved For Continuing Education Credits As Follows

16 Hours of Continuing Education Credit for MFTs & LCSWs, including one-time domestic violence course as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences (FAVTEA PCE 3921)

16 hours of CEU's for Psychologists (Course Code: FAV 001-0004-000)

Meets Annual 16 Hours Continuing Education Requirement for Batterer Intervention Providers

16 hours MCLE's for Attorneys. National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center (NFVLR) is a State of California approved MCLE provider, No. 14233.

Credits for Child Custody Mediators and Evaluators, 4 hours Domestic Violence Update Training and 12 hours Advanced Domestic Violence Training Credits for Child Custody Mediators and Evaluators, as approved by California Judicial Council.

(The course outline or agenda for this training was approved as corresponding to subject areas in California Rules of Court, rule 5.230(d)(2). The views expressed in this training are those of the trainer and do not necessarily represent the official positions or policies of the Judicial Council of California of the Administrative Office of the Courts.)

Sponsor

The **California Alliance for Children and Families** CAFCUSA.org is a gender-neutral 501(c)(3) organization based in Sacramento, California. It is dedicated to ensuring that the family laws of California provide equal and fair treatment to all affected parties: men, women and children alike...Its goal is to bring about policy and training reforms to ensure that California's family laws are balanced, fair and just.

Co-Sponsor

The **Family Violence Treatment & Education Association** FAVTEA.com, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, consists of researchers and mental health professionals, all specialists in the field of family violence. Its goal is to reduce violence in the home and to build safe, healthy and productive relationships.

Featuring Speakers From:

The **National Family Violence Legislative Resource Center** NFVLR.org. NFVLR was created with the purpose of providing state and national legislators with unbiased and scientifically sound information and model legislation regarding family violence.

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SHORT LIST OF CONFERENCE DVDS

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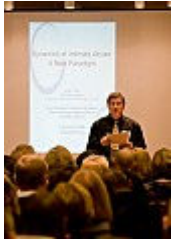
- F0 Introductory Remarks (John Hamel)
- F1 The Dynamics of Intimate Abuse: A New Paradigm (Linda Mills)
- F3 Challenges Posed by Same-Gender Intimate Partner Violence: What Do We Do with Male Victims and Female Offenders? (Greg Merrill)
- F4 Mandatory Arrest: Professional and Personal Perspectives (Linda Mills, Richard Davis & Laura P.)
- F5 30 Years of Research on Partner Violence: Denials and Distortions of the Evidence and What to do About it (Murray Straus)
- F6 Female Perpetrators: The Latest Research (Tonia Nicholls & Sarah Desmarais)
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- S6 Family Roots of Adolescent Violence in Relationships and Effective Interventions: A Developmental and Relational Perspective (Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling & Marlene Moretti)
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- S9 Working with Children of Abuse (Christina Dalpiaz)

CATALOG OF CONFERENCE DVDS

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F0 Introductory Remarks

John Hamel, LCSW, Conference Co-Chair



The conference Co-Chair, a family violence researcher and court-approved batterer intervention provider, summarizes the history of domestic violence policy and legislation in California and the United States, beginning with the landmark *Thurman v. City of Torrington* case. After acknowledging the important accomplishments that followed, including passage of the Violence against Women Act, Mr. Hamel discusses some of the shortcomings of current policy on domestic violence. Setting the tone for the presentations that follow, Mr. Hamel argues that current policy has been limited largely because of its dependence on ideologically-based, rather than research-based, models of education, prevention and intervention.

RUNNING TIME: 17 minutes

PRICE: (Comes with F1)

F1 The Dynamics of Intimate Abuse: A New Paradigm

Linda Mills, Ph.D, JD



Challenging every assumption we make about the problem of domestic violence and how we treat it, Mills refutes with research, how we, as a society, think about this widespread problem and what we are doing about it. Through a survey of the images that dominate our current approach to domestic violence, Mills recasts the problem in a new light, radically reframing the issue by recognizing the importance of the intimate, dynamic, and relational nature of this problem. A new paradigm is presented for policymakers and treatment providers--both in how the problem is conceptualized and how it should be addressed.

RUNNING TIME: 59 minutes

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F3 Challenges Posed by Same-Gender Intimate Partner Violence: What Do We Do With Male Victims and Female Offenders?

Gregory Merrill, LCSW



In this presentation, data is reviewed on the prevalence and patterns associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) in same-gender (that is, gay or lesbian) partnerships. Although most evidence suggests the problem is very similar in prevalence and severity, male victims and female perpetrators may have a particularly difficult time accessing necessary treatment services. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community agencies may be reluctant to address this issue because there is a pressure to keep the community's "dirty laundry" under wraps particularly at a historical time when its members seek the right to marry. Battered women's agencies may also be reluctant to acknowledge female-on-female violence since it violates the current feminist paradigm. Recommendations and concrete policy and practice strategies are reviewed to attempt to bridge the theoretical and gender divides.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 7 minutes

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F4 Mandatory Arrest: Professional and Personal Perspectives

Part One: *Alternatives to Mandatory Interventions*

Linda Mills, Ph.D, JD



Mills argues that we need to reconsider the mainstream feminist position that mandatory arrest and other interventions in domestic violence cases always serve the best interests of victims of domestic violence. Drawing on empirical evidence from numerous fields, Mills contends that our reliance on criminal justice has had several unintended consequences that have not always been responsive to the people involved. Indeed, mandatory interventions come dangerously close to replicating the dynamics in the abusive relationship and therefore should be used with caution and with a sensitivity to the parties involved.

Part Two: *The Unintended Consequences of Mandatory Arrest: Does the Justice System Help or Harm Families?*

Laura P.

Laura P., an educated, professional career woman in a stable, long-term marriage, tells her own story of the impact that California's pro arrest policy has had on her and her family. Due to an unfortunate accident, and the need for her to seek immediate medical treatment for an injury, Laura's husband was arrested against her wishes, put in jail, and charged by the District Attorney with a felony. Laura explains the terrible impact that this experience has had on her personally, as well as on her entire family. Nearly three years later, the negative ripple effects are still evident: emotionally, financially and career-wise. Laura P. is a trained marriage and family therapist, feminist, and is well aware of the need for help and protection for true victims of family violence. However, she uses her story as a plea for legal and justice system reform, in order that families like hers do not have to suffer unnecessarily, while women and families who are most in need of help can receive it.

Part Three: *Mandatory Polices: A False Premise*

Lt (ret.) Richard Davis



Some domestic violence advocates suggest that law enforcement officers are indifferent to the plight of domestic violence victims. These allegations, however, are most often based on anecdotal evidence or data from clinical subgroups of battered women which is then generalized to the general population. In all assault cases, regardless of relationship, law enforcement officers must be trained to recognize the *context* and *circumstances* of individual incidents. While a single push or chronic battering *are* both assaults, logic, reason and contemporary research dictate that there is a dramatic diversity of the *needs for* and *requests from* those who are assaulted. In this presentation, Lt. Davis shows how mandatory and preferred arrest policies, by designating every act of family conflict the same as violent battering, by their very nature exclude context, circumstances, impartiality and common sense – all of which are the foundational cores of judicious community policing.

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F5 30 Years of Research on Partner Violence: Denials and Distortions of the Evidence And What to do About it

Murray Straus, Ph.D



In this presentation, one of the most significant and respected figures in the field debunks a number of established myths about intimate partner violence. Part 1 summarizes results from many studies which show that: (1) Women perpetrate and initiate physical attacks on partners at the same or higher rate as men. (2) Most partner violence is mutual. (3) Partner violence has multiple causes, only one of which is to preserve a patriarchal societal and family system. (4) Motives for partner violence are parallel for men and women. (5) Self-defense explains only a small percent of partner violence by women. (6) Men cause more fear and injury, but about a third of the injuries and deaths are inflicted by female partners. Part 2 provides empirical evidence that these research results are often denied, suppressed or misrepresented. This includes publications of the National Institute of Justice and scientific journals. Part 3 argues that ignoring this overwhelming evidence has crippled prevention and treatment programs and suggests ways in which prevention and treatment efforts might be improved by changing ideologically-based programs to programs based on evidence from the past 30 years of research.

RUNNING TIME: 55 minutes

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F6 Female Perpetrators: The Latest Research

Tonia L. Nicholls, Ph.D and Sarah Desmarais, Ph.D. Candidate



Until recently there has been all but a complete black-out of research and policy concerning the perpetration of aggression by women against their intimate partners. This reflects a broader societal neglect of the issue of women's aggression and men's victimization experiences. Three decades of research confirm that the prevalence and incidence of aggression by women and men in romantic relationships is highly comparable. The field is now moving to a consideration of the nature of aggression perpetrated and the extent to which women perpetrate "clinically significant" abuse versus low-level or minor aggression that is unlikely to result in physical injuries or harm. Further debate involves the extent to which women's motives for abuse are distinct from men's and the need to contextualize women's aggression. This session reviews a growing body of literature that can increasingly inform our understanding of women's aggression and the extent to which this abuse presents a risk of harm to victims.

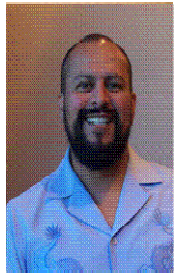
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F7 Domestic Violence in Ethnic Minority Populations

Part One: *Interventions for Perpetrators & Victims of Partner Violence: A Latino Perspective*

Moisés Próspero, Ph.D



This presentation provides a dyadic Latino perspective on interventions provided for perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). Quantitative measures (e.g., coercion, type of violence, re-offense rates) and qualitative interviews (e.g. narratives of violent episodes, family experiences) conducted on both males and females residing in various victim shelters and perpetrator treatment centers reveal the adverse effects of IPV on Latino families, as well as the gaps in treatment services. The effects of unilateral violence (female only perpetration versus male only perpetration) and mutually violent couples on the Latino family are also examined. Finally, the perspectives from Latino/a victims and perpetrators are compared with non-Latino perspectives. Based on the various findings, recommendations for culturally appropriate treatment approaches are discussed, with a specific focus on interventions for Latinos that differ from traditional gender-based strategies.

Part Two: *Reflections on Racial Differences in Perceptions of Domestic Violence: Black Women Have to Be Tough*

R.L. McNeely, Ph.D, J.D.



Blacks and whites often have clashing perspectives on many issues that are puzzling to both races. One of these clashing perspectives is in respect to differing perceptions of domestic violence, including murder and rape. Arguably, this as well as other differing perspectives flow not only from stark present-day demographic realities but also from historical differences between the races, including in particular contrasts in the socially-sanctioned roles of women. This presentation sets forth some reasons for race-related cosmological differences, explaining, for example, why many African Americans greeted O.J. Simpson's not-guilty verdict with ecstatic cheers while whites sat in stunned disbelief. The influence of pre-existing discriminatory cognitive schemas is considered to be of comparatively minimal importance in explaining these differences.

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F9 Connections between Partner and Child Physical Abuse

Amy Slep, PhD



It has been increasingly understood that partner and child physical abuse co-occur, but until recently, we have been unable to address critical questions including how prevalent various patterns of co-occurrence are. Furthermore, various patterns of co-occurrence in families may have implications for effective treatment. For example, a man who is violent toward both his partner and his child would likely be best served by a different treatment approach than a man who is violent toward his partner, not his child, and married to a partner who is violent toward both him and the child. This presentation focuses on understanding patterns of violence within families consisting of a couple and at least one child. The connections between partner and child abuse, including common and unique risk and protective factors are addressed. Factors distinguishing individuals engaging in both partner and child aggression are discussed, and intervention implications are highlighted.

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F11 Screening and Substantiation of Different Types of Domestic Violence: Implications for Developing Parenting Plans and Court Orders for Custody and Visitation.

Janet Johnston, Ph.D



Premised on the understanding that domestic violence encompasses a wide range of behaviors that can be classified into different types, this presentation addresses the need for a differentiated approach to developing parenting plans after separation when domestic violence is alleged. First, the problem of substantiating allegations of violence and what to do with unsubstantiated claims is discussed. Second, a method of assessing risk [called the PPP] is proposed that screens for the *potency*, *pattern*, and *primary perpetrator* of the violence, and illustrated by case discussion, as a foundation for generating hypotheses about the type of and potential for future violence as well as parental functioning. Third, a series of parenting plans are proposed, with criteria and guidelines for usage depending upon this differential PPP screening and the availability of resources within the family and community. Principles for shifting from one plan to another as the case changes over time and for resolving conflicts in complex cases are illustrated with case examples.

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S1 Biased Assimilation, Belief Perseverance, Groupthink and the Social Psychology of the Domestic Violence Movement

Donald Dutton, Ph.D



Social psychological studies of groups and individuals reveal how both ward off ideas and data that disconfirm strongly held beliefs. Biased assimilation and belief perseverance refers to the differential processing of belief consonant and belief dissonant data. Groupthink refers to how social influence factors enhance this assimilation bias. We examine, with several examples, this processing feature both in social science studies of domestic violence and in government responses to the problem. All bias exists in one direction and is not, therefore, simply random error. It exists in the direction of the “paradigm” of domestic violence (i.e. male = perpetrator, female= victim) which has its roots in Mackinnon’s Marxist notion of gender relations, and hence, associates maleness with oppression and domination and femaleness with victim-hood. These broad associative complexes color all perceptions of intimate violence as being instrumental and dominating for males, and self defensive and acceptable for females. The numerous shortcomings of this view are discussed with examples.

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S2 Gender-Inclusive Systemic Therapy for Domestic Violence

Part One: Overview of Research and Basic Treatment Considerations

John Hamel, LCSW



Intimate partner abuse is a complex problem with multiple etiological roots. Traditional theory and treatment, which favors batterer intervention for men and victim services for women, sacrifices clinical effectiveness for political correctness and ignores these fundamental realities: (1) Men and women can be both perpetrators and/or victims; (2) Both genders are physically and emotionally impacted by abuse; and (3) Child witnesses are affected regardless of perpetrator's gender. Treatment has also been stymied by grossly overstated victim-perpetrator distinctions. Most partner abuse is mutual, and the victim of one person's abuse may be the perpetrator to another within the same family system. Mr. Hamel presents assessment and treatment approaches that take into account these realities, as well as the dual needs of victim safety and clinical effectiveness. Based in research, the *gender-inclusive approach*

also takes into account the remarkable efforts by women's advocates on behalf of victims, and is anchored in core feminist principles of justice, respect and equality.

Part Two: Challenging Stereotypes of Family Violence

Claudia Dias, MSC, JD



Research and clinical experience tell us that very little of the dance of domestic violence concerns the dynamics of patriarchy and male privilege: the toxic behaviors of both parties are explicitly intertwined. Key to effective domestic violence treatment is in understanding anger, rage and aggression as survival tools. People of both genders use these tools because they work: we want to be heard, be understood, be right, motivate others; we want to feel safe and in control and powerful. It is demeaning and disrespectful to women to assume that women would not use these very effective tools. Anger, rage and violence often give us the results we want. But they are expensive tools, costing us dignity, respect, freedom, families, jobs, homes: the list is endless. The key to understanding any behavior is to examine the benefit the person gains from using the behavior and the price paid to attain that benefit. The key to

resolving the behavior is to teach alternative means of attaining that benefit.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 32 minutes

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S3 Research-based Interventions for Partner Violence Perpetrators

Nicola Graham-Kevan, Ph.D



The literature on violence tells us that for interventions to be effective they must address individual offence-related risk factors such as hostile attribution bias and poor emotional regulation. Therefore perpetrator treatment should be preceded by a thorough assessment of the risk and needs of the individual. The range of potential risks and needs to be assessed should be informed by both-the partner violence and the general aggression literature, as well as a functional assessment. Only then can the treatment be tailored to meet individual perpetrator needs. An award winning program from the UK developed for habitually violent men will be used to illustrate how these principals can be put into practice. A checklist for policy makers and clinicians is presented which will allow them to assess for themselves the evidence base for the interventions they utilize and hence invest their time and resources more strategically.

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S5 A History of the Domestic Violence Movement in the Western World

Erin Pizzey



The presenter begins with the early history of the domestic violence movement, and her efforts to open the first shelter for women and their children in 1971. The early history of the feminist movement in England is discussed, and the ensuing battle between advocates who conceptualized domestic violence as a human and family issue rather than a gender issue, and those who used the movement as a means of funding and advancing a radical political ideology based on Marxist teaching. This presentation describes in detail the importance of this ideological split, and how the needs and wishes of women have often been ignored. The presentation ends with a general description of where we are now and suggestions for the future.

RUNNING TIME: 46 minutes

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S6 Family Roots of Adolescent Violence in Relationships and Effective Interventions: A Developmental and Relational Perspective

Part One: Marlene Moretti, Ph.D



In her presentation, Dr. Moretti discusses: 1) how experiences within families are related to risk for aggression and violence in adolescents' close relationships with peers and romantic partners; 2) the impact of maternal versus paternal partner violence on the use of aggression and violence by adolescents in relationships; and 3) the development and evaluation of a manualized, group format intervention for parents and caregivers of teens at high-risk for aggression and violence. The lessons that adolescents learn in their families about intimacy, conflict, and aggression go far beyond simply modeling the behavior of their parents. It is argued that attachment representations are an important vehicle through which lessons learned within the context of interparental and family violence become internally consolidated and enacted in the relationships of adolescents with peers and partners. The Connect

Program – a brief and structured intervention – is described, including evidence of program effectiveness and province wide training and dissemination.

Part Two: Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling Ph.D



Dr. Jennifer Langhinrichsen-Rohling's talk focuses on understanding adolescents as potential perpetrators and victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). She considers the degree to which relationship skill enhancement and emotion regulation strategies should be promoted as intimate partner violence prevention strategies. Dr. L-R then describes the development of a relationship-enhancement, IPV prevention program called *Building a Lasting Love* that she designed for at-risk adolescents. Data related to the effectiveness of conducting this intervention with pregnant teen girls, who are living in poverty, are described. Dr. L-R also speaks about her on-going efforts to modify the program for adjudicated adolescent boys who are residing in an alternative sentencing program. In addition, the policy implications of her clinical work are articulated.

RUNNING TIME: 2 hours 3 minutes

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S7 Interventions in Disputed Child Custody Cases

Part One: *Domestic Violence and Child Custody: Family Court Professionals' Knowledge and Beliefs*

Jon Aaronson, Ph.D



In this part of the presentation Jon Aaronson cites many of Researcher Donald Dutton's challenges to Family Court professionals' understanding of domestic violence – derived from training within a closed, victim advocate “gender paradigm.” Contrary to behavioral science findings of domestic violence among the general population, this binary mind-set only admits evidence of abuse perpetrated by male batterers on female victims. The result, Dutton argues, is Family Court professionals' receptivity to case facts that only confirm a gender-based belief system, which often overrides a fuller consideration of the best interests of those children most in need or protection from the full spectrum violence occurring between custody/access litigants. Aaronson focuses in on recent research findings supporting the first part of Dutton's proposition: The beliefs of child custody evaluators, Guardians *ad Litem*, and judges about intimate partner violence appear more ideological than reality-based. Specific ways in which this bias can play out within the Family Court system are highlighted. Implications for children of divorce who witness violence perpetrated by mothers as well as fathers are noted.

Part Two: *Innovative Interventions in Child Custody Disputes Involving Accusations of Domestic Violence*

Michael Carolla, MFT



As we move toward a more ‘co-parenting’ ideal, parents seem to be using every ounce of ammo available to win custody of their children, including accusations of partner violence and child abuse. The courts must make appropriate custody and treatment decisions even when unable to separate fact from accusation. Can family court professionals help provide options that allow for uncertainty, rather than force the courts into “yes or no” decisions? We must also consider cases where the facts are not in dispute, and abuse has been clearly substantiated. Does this mean that the parent in question has little or nothing to offer the child? Is the child always in danger with a parent because that parent had been violent with the spouse, is a substance abuser, or suffers from a mental health or physical health issue? How can the child in question still have “the healthiest relationship possible” with that parent? Several modalities and treatment options are discussed, including anger management/domestic violence and parenting groups, co-parenting counseling, “wraparound” therapeutic visitation and parent-child reunification counseling. These options can help parents to learn the skills necessary to better parent and co-parent, and also provide a reasonably safe process for these families to move forward into a healthy, newly-structured family relationship.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 20 minutes

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S8 Couples and Family Interventions - Multifamily Group Process: The Moveable Family of Origin Genogram as an Intervention Tool Towards Breaking the Cycle of intergenerational Family Violence.

Karen Cohen, MFT



In this presentation, multifamily group treatment is explored, with a focus on the moveable family of origin genogram as an effective intervention tool to treat family violence. This type of genogram is designed to demonstrate to families how the intergenerational process of violent learned behavior can be unlearned. This safe therapeutic technique applies concepts derived from both family therapy and cognitive behavioral therapy techniques to visually show how a family unit can be restructured from dysfunctional to functional. Multiple family group process provides group support through feedback to model and practice new communication and behavioral skills to improve problem solving in various stages of cyclical, unresolved family conflict. Evidence of the effectiveness of this treatment modality has come from empirical studies spanning over 15 years with mandated treatment referrals from Los Angeles County Child and Family Services and a subsequent ongoing voluntary after care program.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 12 minutes

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S9 Working with Children of Abuse

Christina Dalpiaz, MS



Most people suppose that domestic violence refers to a physical altercation between two adults and rarely consider its impact on children. This oversight gravely underestimates the influence that other forms of abuse (i.e., emotional or psychological) have on the families as a whole. The presenter, herself a survivor of physical and emotional abuse by an ex-partner, redefines domestic violence as family violence, and will reevaluate its players by showing the correlation between witnessing violence and subsequent behavioral problems. The primary focus is on how to work effectively with both perpetrating and victimized parents so they can effectively raise their children in a positive environment. This presentation explains how counselors and others working with family violence can reframe power and control as positive forces for change, break down parent resistance and provide skills that enhance parenting strategies. Case examples are used to allow the audience to see these abused families as real individuals and not just statistics.

RUNNING TIME: 1 hour 10 minutes

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&
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