



Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lt. Governor
Allison Blake, Commissioner



Domestic Violence Liaison Program

The New Jersey Story

The journey from value added service to a DV informed child protection system

*Grace Hamilton, MSW, Administrator
(grace.hamilton@dcf.state.nj.us)
Trashaun Powell, M.A, Program Specialist
(trashaun.powell@dcf.state.nj.us)*

New Jersey Department of Children and Families

Family and Community Partnerships
Office of Domestic Violence Services



How did NJ get to a co-location program?

((Ecological antecedents))

- New Jersey has had similar internal and external influences that New York has previously discussed.
- In addition, NJ has a Modified Settlement Agreement(MSA) with the federal court and State case law that was developing surrounding co-occurrence cases.
- New Jersey wanted to build on their collaborative efforts with DV agencies to benefit DV victims (co- occurrence DV & CA) in the child welfare system.
- The DVL Program was developed as a value added service and has further developed into an opportunity to transform to a DV informed child welfare system by building capacity and proficiency.



How did NJ get to a co-location program?

(continued)

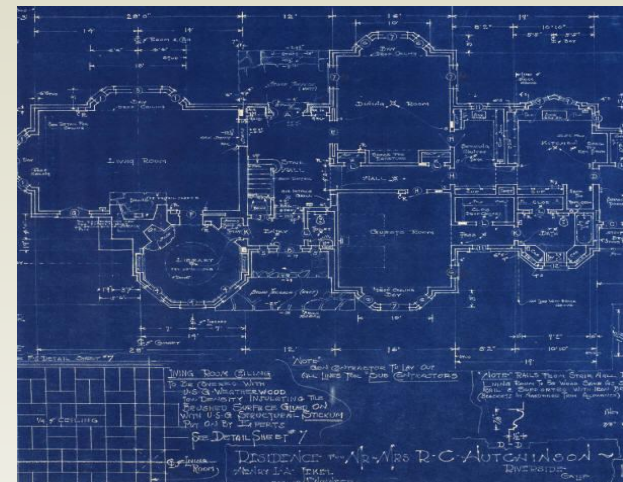
- At a macro level the implementation of this program supports the goals of the Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAPTA) 2010 reauthorization which encourages collaborations between CPS entities and domestic violence entities to improve
 - Collaborative investigations and intervention procedures
 - Provision for the safety of the non-offending parent and child(ren)
 - Provision of services to child(ren) exposed to domestic violence that also support the care giving role of the non-offending parent



Structure of the NJ DVL program

(a structure and process blueprint)

- 31 Domestic Violence Liaisons (DVL) for 46 local Child Protection Services (CPS) offices
- All 21 Counties in NJ are covered by at least 1 co-located DVL
- 4 days at local CPS office and 1 day back at DV program for staff meetings, clinical supervision etc. No set duties at DV program such as hotline or shelter shifts
- Important to have consistent messaging about the program
- Uniform language for contracts with DV provider agency
- Agreements between the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and local DV programs:
 - ❖ Hiring considerations
 - ❖ Confidentiality considerations
 - ❖ Role of the DVL and 3 case practice forms
 - ❖ Working with Batterers
 - ❖ What does a collaborative meeting look like?
 - ❖ Home Visit Considerations



Home Visits do Help!

“During a home visit, I was able to meet a client who was not otherwise open to meeting. She was very hesitant to meet with someone who wanted to discuss what she was forbidden to talk about (her husband’s abusive behavior).” -DVL Amanda

“Home visits enhances advocates ability to properly assess the vicinity where the violence happened” –DVL Caitlin

“Home visits demonstrate teachable moments to CPS workers who still struggle with DV cases” –DVL Caitlin

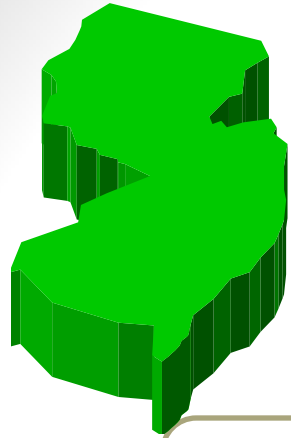
“Home visits allow advocates to reach unreachable clients and service a client that is unable to access services otherwise”

“Seeing the clients in their homes allows for a more relaxed meeting” –DVL Dawne

County Collaborations



- Local collaborative meetings
- Statewide steering and leadership meetings; members are from all of partner organizations



DVL program implementation timeline

(2008)

Informal arrangement w/local DV agency and CPS. To provide services in co-occurring cases

Formalized program began in 5 counties while the DCF DV protocol was being developed

(2009)

DCF DV Protocol was established.

The DVL Program was increased to 9 counties and then to 15 counties

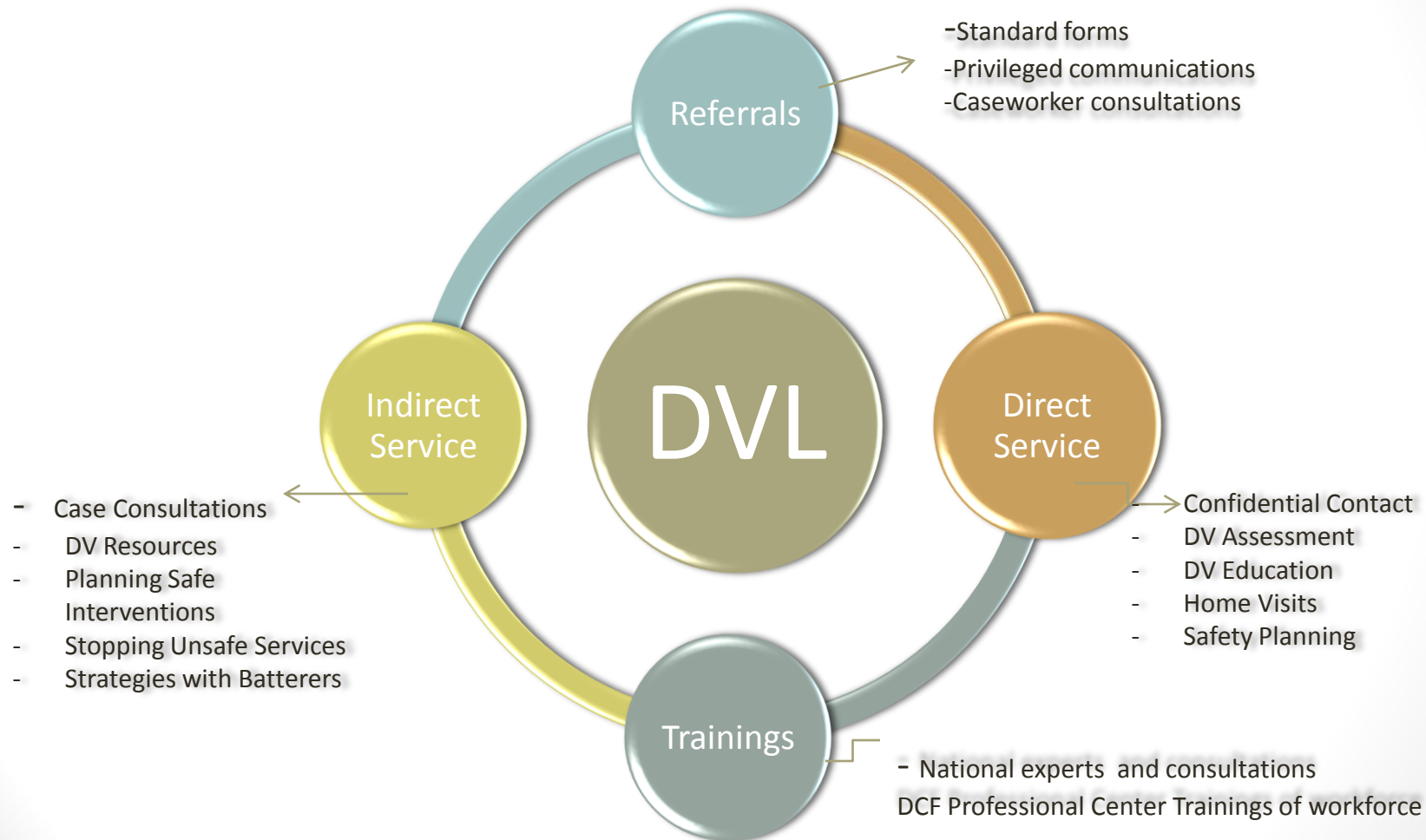
(2010)

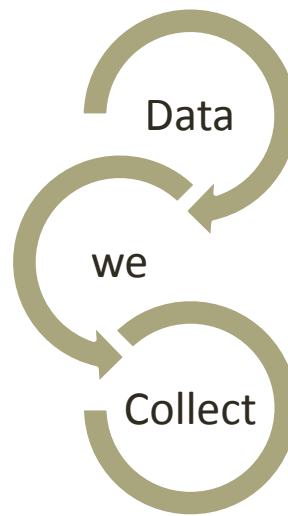
The DVL Program increased to all 22 lead dv programs in all 21 counties This was accomplished through State VOCA funding

(2012)

The DVL Program expanded to 31 DVL's and CBCAP funding utilized to expand

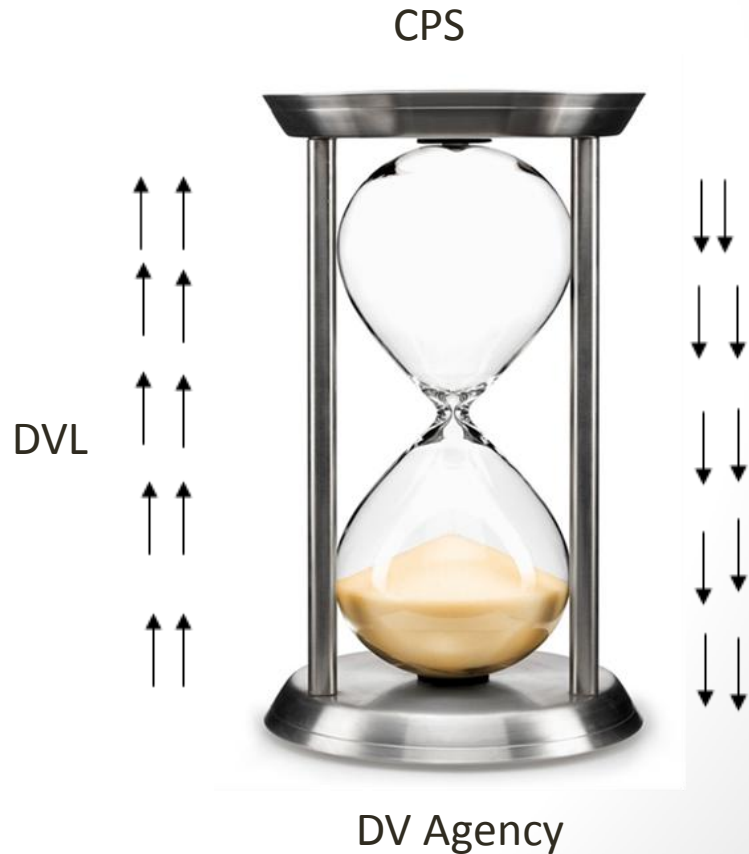
The Domestic Violence Liaison





- Uniform data collection from each DVL submitted monthly
(uniform data collection form and data definition dictionary)
 - Demographics
 - Which services to participants
 - Which services to DCF CPS
 - Which units at CPS are requesting services, e.g..
Intake/Investigation, Permanency, Adoptions, Litigation etc.

Building capacity between systems



Over arching strategy to increase DV capacity in CWS

- DV Liaison Program
- New worker training that includes DV modules
- DV protocol document and 1 day training
- Rollout coincided with the Case Practice Model immersion and trainings



Strategies to increase DV capacity in CWS (continued)

- Violence Against Women (VAW) Certificate through Rutgers University
- DV Supervision included as part of CPS Focus on Supervision initiative
- Opportunities for National Experts to provide enhanced training opportunities
- Batterers Intervention (BIP)pilot programs
- Ongoing evaluations of DVL & BIP





Our Research



- New Jersey did not have funding to support a research project
- NJ was approached by a Ph.D. Candidate with an interest in this program, who is a student at Fordham University.
- The principle researcher is approaching the research with focus groups and key personnel interviews. Extensive surveying was not included at this time.
- Principle researcher has completed her focus groups at this time.
- Initial information appears to support that the program is value added and is influencing case practice change.
- It also seems to support much of the New York State findings.
- There is no final report at this time. There should be a final report by June/2014.

Prevention

- Children and their non-offending parent (NOP) have better outcomes if they remain together.
- While working in partnership with the non-offending parent and child we may be able to provide safe engagement and accountability with perpetrators to reduce risk of harm to the NOP & child(ren)
- Protective factors of reducing isolation and having concrete support at a time of need.

Reflecting on challenges



- DVL staffing issues including retaining staff and training of new staff
- Managing the workload of the DVL's and expectations of the child welfare system
- Sustainability
- Equity issues within DV agencies
- Increased understanding for the need for services for safe engagement and accountability for perpetrators.

Celebrating Successes

- DV staff and DCF have a more positive view of each other and new appreciation for each other's work
- Child Protection staff are collaborating to meet the needs of individuals and families that they serve
- Communication across systems has improved
- Child Protection and DV Professionals are more involved in DV case practice discussions

