



Office of Children
and Family Services

COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIPS TO
IMPROVE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRACTICE

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Presenters

- **Candace Calabrese**, OCFS Safe & Together Practice Implementation Manager, NYS OCFS
- **Salvatore Patella**, Staff Development Coordinator, Orange County DSS
- **Leah Horrevoets**, Senior Case Supervisor, Orange County DSS
- **Sarita Green**, Associate Director, Fearless! Hudson Valley

Workshop Agenda

- Brief overview of the Safe & Together Model
- Orange County and Fearless! Hudson Valley CPS/DV collaboration
- OCFS implementation of Safe & Together
- Orange County training plan
- Coaching supports for ongoing practice improvement
- Testimonials/successes



Mission

To create, nurture and sustain a global network of domestic violence-informed child welfare professionals, communities and systems.

Safe & Together™ Model

Better Outcomes for Families & Systems

Domestic Violence Informed Child Welfare System

- Improved Competencies
- Improved Cross System Collaboration

Foundation

- Model Characteristics
- Principles
- Critical Components

Practice Tools

- Mapping
- Pivoting
- Case Planning Guide
- Supervisor Matrix
- Pathways and Planning

Better Outcomes for Families: Safety, Wellbeing & Permanency

- Better Assessment
- Better Partnerships
- Better Case Plans



Policy Practice Training Services Collaboration

Weak Nexus

Strong Nexus

About the Adults' issues

Integrated with children/other CPS

"Failure to Protect"

Perpetrator Pattern

Fathers Invisible

High Standards for Fathers

Child v. Adult Survivor

Child Safety & Well Being Tied to Survivor

Safe & Together Principles

1

Keeping child Safe and Together with non-offending parent

Safety | Healing from Trauma | Stability & Nurturance

2

Partnering with non-offending parent as default position

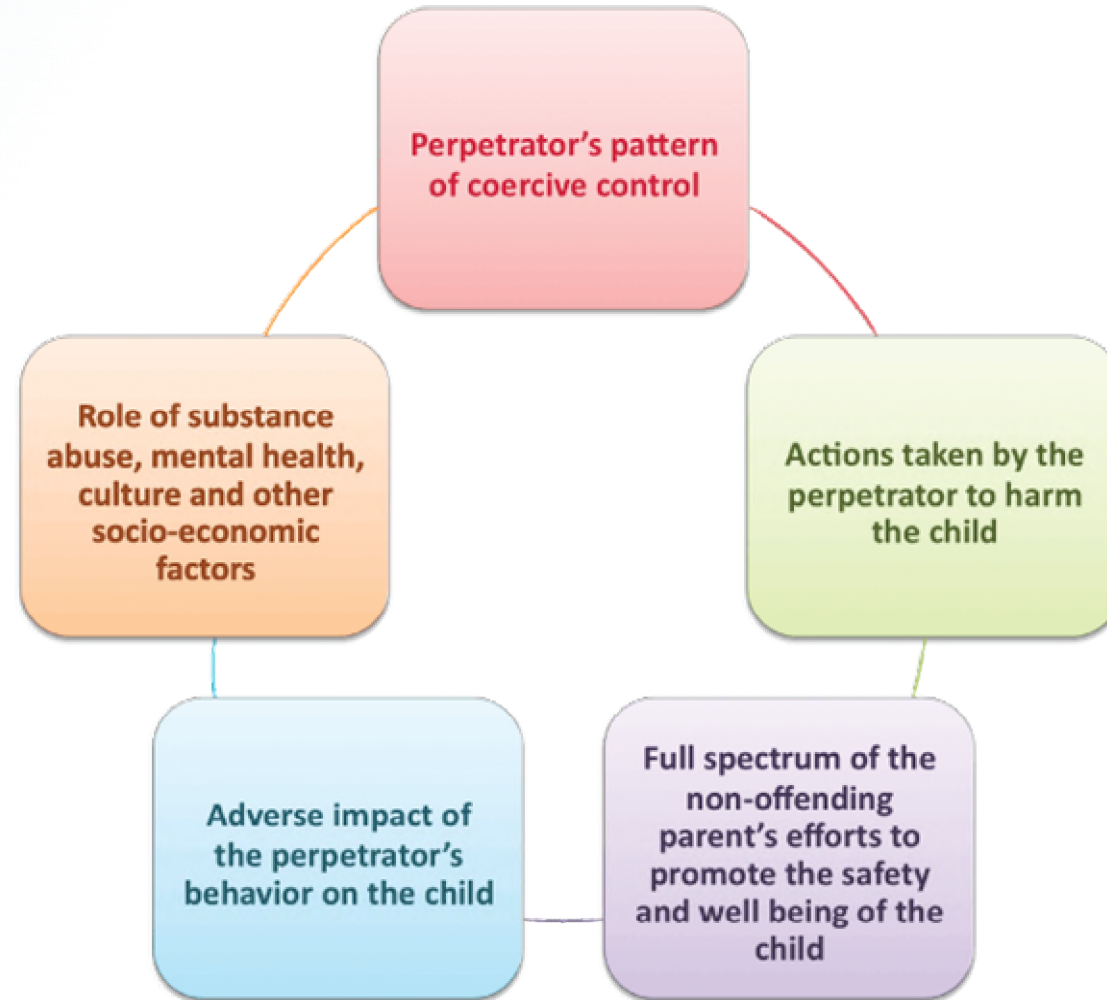
Efficient | Effective | Child-centered

3

Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child

Engagement | Accountability | Courts

Safe & Together™ Critical Components



Multiple Pathways to Harm

Perpetrator's Pattern

- Coercive control towards adult survivor
- Actions taken to harm children

Children's Trauma & Safety

- Victim of physical abuse
- Seeing, hearing or learning about the violence

Effect on Partner's Parenting

- Depression, PTSD, anxiety, substance abuse
- Loss of authority
- Energy goes to addressing perpetrator instead of children
- Interference with day to day routine and basic care

Effects on Family Ecology

- Loss of income
- Housing instability
- Loss of contact with extended family
- Educational and social disruptions

Harm to Child

- Behavioral, Emotional, Social, Educational
- Developmental
- Physical Injury

Orange County CPS/DV Collaboration

- Timeline/history
- Program structure
- Shared goals
- Incorporation of Safe & Together pilot in 2015
- Advocacy for the training of all staff

Orange County Training/Implementation Plan

- Focus groups
- Planning meeting with LDSS leadership, Fearless! HV and OCFS
- Creating buy-in with supervisory staff
- Training plan including contracted voluntary agencies and Fearless! staff at every offering
- Ongoing offerings and communication with all involved

COACHING SUPPORTS

**Group Case Review
using Perpetrator
Mapping tool.**

**Blended training and
coaching sessions.**

**Organize a site-specific
workgroup structure for
designing local Safe &
Together™
implementation.**

**Help develop local policy
and procedures to
support Safe &
Together™**

**Consultation on a
variety of post-
implementation growth
issues.**

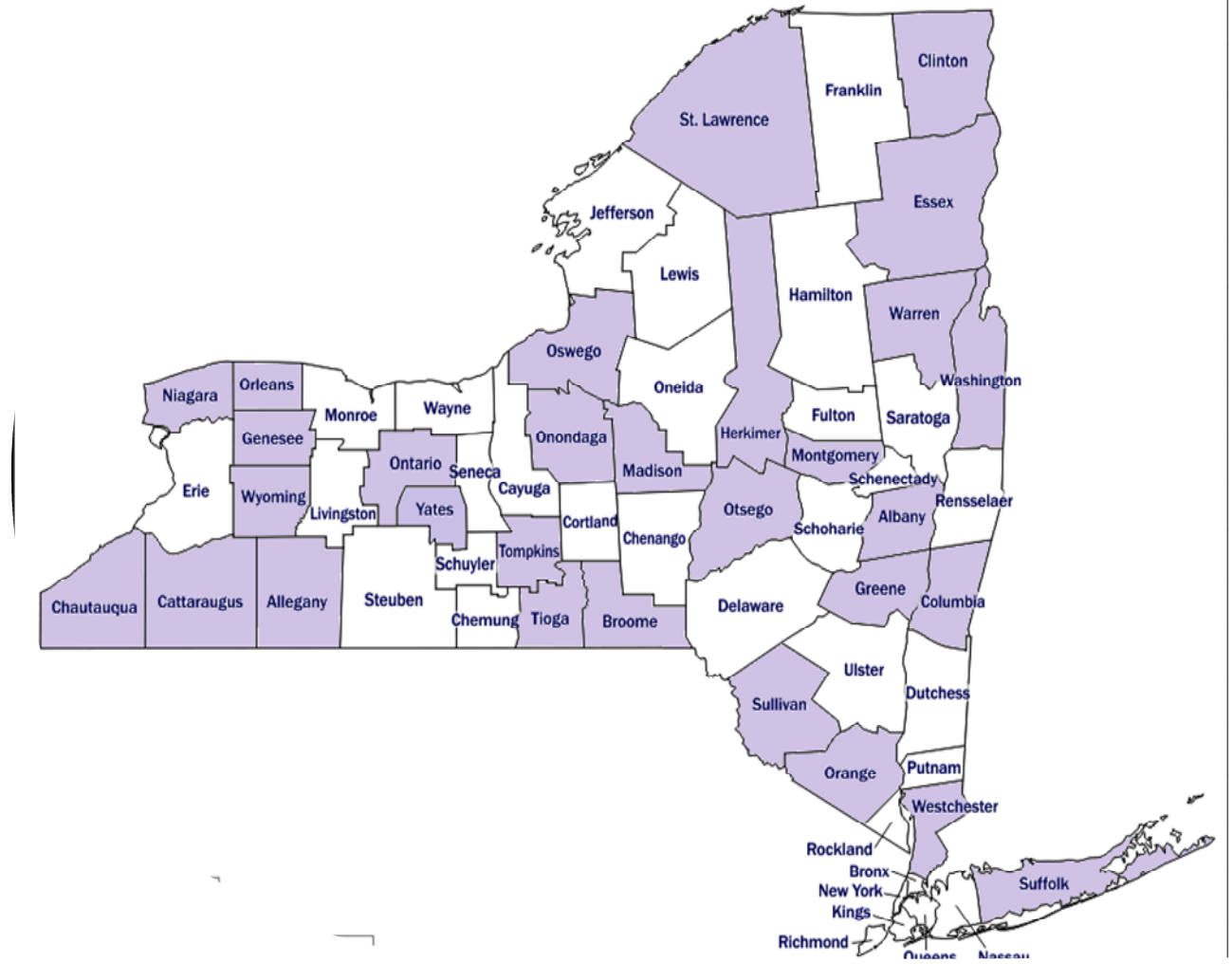
Case Consultation.

**Supervisor
consultations.**

**Caseworker one-on-one
consultation/shadowing**

Safe & Together in NYS

- In 30 LDSSs at varying degrees
- **In addition to Orange County**, 11 have decided to train their entire staff in the Four-day CORE
- Coaching in 10 LDSSs



TESTIMONIALS AND SUCCESSES

“INITIALLY, IN OUR DISTRICT, ONLY SUPERVISORS WERE GOING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 4-DAY TRAINING. THOSE OF US WHO ATTENDED THE FIRST ROUND OF THIS OFFERING WERE VERY CLEAR IN OUR POSITIVE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE CONTENT AND THE DESIRE FOR ALL STAFF, DESPITE THE TIME COMMITMENT, TO BE AFFORDED THE SAME OPPORTUNITY AS WE SEE IT AS THAT IMPORTANT. THE TRAINERS HEARD THIS AND ADVOCATED WITH AND FOR US FOR THAT CHANGE TO BE MADE. THE TRAINING MOVED QUICKLY AS IT WAS FULL OF RELEVANT CONTENT, AND IT WAS NEVER DULL BASED ON HOW INTERACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE THE PROCESS WAS.”

Orange County Supervisor

“SINCE COMPLETING THE CORE TRAINING, DV ADVOCATES AND CPS CASEWORKERS ARE ABLE TO DIG DEEPER (AND MORE QUICKLY) INTO CASE DISCUSSIONS OF SURVIVOR STRENGTHS AND PERPETRATOR PATTERNS DURING OUR MONTHLY DV OFFICE HOURS. SOME CASEWORKERS WHO’VE BEEN THROUGH CORE HAVE SHARED WITH ME THAT THE TRAINING, AND ESPECIALLY THE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS THEY LEARNED IN THE TRAINING, HAVE HELPED THEIR CASES TO MOVE A BIT FASTER AND HAVE GIVEN THEM MORE CONFIDENCE IN BEING ABLE TO IDENTIFY DV.”

Shilo, Collaborative Programs Director, Fearless! Orange County DSS

“AS A LOCAL DISTRICT DSS SUPERVISOR, I CAN SAY THAT THE SAFE & TOGETHER FOUR-DAY TRAINING FOR CASEWORKERS IS AMAZING! I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE CHANGE IN INDIVIDUAL CASEWORK PRACTICE SINCE THE FOUR-DAY TRAINING. THE TRAINING HAS GIVEN MY WORKERS A MODEL FOR HOW TO IDENTIFY COERCIVE CONTROL AND HOW TO SEPARATE THE ACTIONS OF THE NON-OFFENDING PARENT FROM THE ACTIONS OF THE ABUSER. IN ADDITION, THE TRAINING IN HOW TO DOCUMENT COERCIVE CONTROL AND ITS CONSEQUENCES FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN HAS BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN PRESENTING A CLEAR PATTERN OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIORS.”

Case Supervisor Orange County

“THE FOUR DAYS WERE INVALUABLE PARTICULARLY IN THE WAY THE WORK WAS BROKEN DOWN DAY BY DAY TO OFFER BACKGROUND, EXPLORE BIASES, DEVELOP WORKING SERVICE PLANS AND PROVIDED EASY TO USE QUESTIONS TO IMPROVE PRACTICE. THIS TRAINING INTRODUCED THE IDEA OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A PARENTING CHOICE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE OFFENDING PARENT AS A METHOD OF HOLDING THEM ACCOUNTABLE IN A WAY THAT NO OTHER TRAINING I HAVE ATTENDED IN ALL OF MY YEARS HAS.”

Orange County Supervisor



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