

CALL TO

Take Action Guide



TAKE A NEXT STEP

Here are some possible steps as you take what you have learned and put it into action. Please contact us if you have any questions or need further assistance.

Safety Matters - Helping Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders and Domestic Violence Move from Survivors to Thrivers

1 ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

Visit the Quality Improvement Center on Domestic Violence in Child Welfare:
<https://dvchildwelfare.org/>

Visit IPV Health:
<https://ipvhealth.org/>

Read the Information Memorandum (Jan. 2019) - The Intersection of Domestic Violence, Mental Health, and Violence:
<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ACF-SAMHSA-Signed-Intersection-of-DV-MH-SU-01.18.2019.pdf>

- Develop and strengthen relationship with local domestic violence (DV) providers, both those who work with survivors of DV and those who work with their abusive partners
- Include DV and health care stakeholders in your governance structure (operational team, steering committee, oversight committee) to build capacity for cross-system collaboration
- Integrate practices for addressing the impacts of DV, including building protective factors that help both survivors of DV and their children, into existing programs to maximize existing resources
- Create and evaluate innovative approaches to deal with co-occurring issues of substance use disorder (SUD) and DV, and approaches that are culturally relevant for different populations
- Review *Information Memorandum* published by ACF and SAMHSA in collaboration with experts at the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health

2 ENSURE SURVIVOR VOICE

Visit Futures Without Violence:
<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/take-action/advocacy>

- Recognize differential professional power between you and the adult survivor to avoid imposing one's own values on others
- Foster survivor control, choice and connection
- Talk directly to children and youth about their experiences
- With DV survivors, explore the connections between substance use and tactics used by their partner to control them
- Use feedback to improve the quality of services
- Elicit survivor perspectives to formulate messaging and direct advocacy

3 EDUCATION AND PROVIDE CROSS-TRAINING

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<https://dvchildwelfare.org/>

Visit IPV Health:

<https://ipvhealth.org/>

Visit the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health:

<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/>

- Learn more about the connections between DV, trauma and substance abuse
- Learn more about domestic, dating, and sexual violence and how they affect families, communities, and society at large
- Share key statistics via social media
- Educate community about health impacts of DV
- Host cross-trainings within your team, agencies, and across systems to promote shared knowledge
- Envision a community-based approach that aims for prevention, healing, and thriving
- Educate about common biases and misperceptions about DV and SUD to reduce stigma and system barriers
- Educate on preferred language and terminology that reduces stigma and empowers survivors

4 RE-EXAMINE CURRENT PRACTICES AND POLICIES

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<http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ACF-SAMHSA-Signed-Intersection-of-DV-MH-SU-01.18.2019.pdf>

- Ensure coordinated and comprehensive screening and assessment for DV, SUD, mental health and trauma
- Build capacity to work with the person using violence and to hold them accountable
- Conduct a systems-walk-through to ensure seamless care by developing a referral procedure between agencies and providers
- Conduct a "trauma-walk-through" to ensure that all aspects of your program are trauma-sensitive and trauma-informed
- Promote treatment approaches that support parent-child relationships
- Collect data and take action to advance equity and inclusion on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, veteran and military status
- Address disproportionality in access to services that leads to disparities in outcomes

5 CONTACT US

- Contact us about Family Treatment Courts and court teams that are effectively serving families affected by DV in their jurisdictions
- Contact us about training and technical assistance resources
- Contact us at fdc@cffutures.org
- Visit: www.cffutures.org



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