

# The Integration of Services Training Series

## MODULE 3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

### Session 2: Dynamics and Impacts

#### SLIDE 2-1: OBJECTIVES

##### Objectives for Session 2: Dynamics and Impacts

- Summarize common impacts of DV on family members and family dynamics.
- Summarize survivor efforts to protect the children.
- Work with all family members in a manner that expresses empathy and hope for achieving mutually agreed upon goals.

#### *Summarize:*

Today we plan to spend the morning moving through understanding the batterer, the survivor, and the child(ren) within the family impacted by Domestic Violence.

With this goal in mind, we need to revisit or understand the batterer, the impact of the DV dynamics on the survivor, and the impact on children.

#### **Dynamics of the Batterer:**

#### *Say:*

- *In the next part of our training, we are going to explore the dynamics of the batterer's tactics and choices.*
- *Batterers create an environment of distorted reality based on terrorist tactics as we discussed with the Power and Control Wheel.*
- *Understanding the batterer assists Investigators/DCMs in:*
  - *Seeing the batterer's role clearly within sometimes confusing family dynamics.*
  - *Identifying appropriate services for all family members.*
  - *Avoiding manipulation via the presentation of the batterer and inadvertently overlooking safety concerns for the survivor and the children.*
- *Understanding how difficult it is to change batterer behavior.*

## SLIDE 2-2: CHARACTERISTICS OF A BATTERER

Characteristics of a Batterer

A "batterer" is someone who has a consistent pattern of coercive control of an intimate partner. Coercive control includes different forms of:

- Psychological abuse
- Intimidation
- An inflated sense of self-entitlement
- Physical or sexual abuse

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### OPENING QUESTION

Much of the research in the following slides comes from:

*The Batterer as Parent*, by Bancroft and Silverman, and *Accountability and Connection with Abusive Men*, a paper based on groundbreaking work by the Massachusetts Special Unit on DV within the State's Child Welfare System.

### Summarize:

- Using this slide to remind us of the Power and Control Wheel, we know that some of the ways that batterers control the environment and family do not fit the criminal definition of domestic violence when viewed by themselves, but are revealed in patterns of behavior.

### Ask:

***Based on what we have discussed about the Power and Control Wheel, how do you see that Investigator/DCM's and the system could be manipulated by the batterer, even to the point that the survivor looks like she is to blame for the report to the agency?***

- Batterers may convince the survivor that she is crazy or that she initiated the violence.
- Batterers can use the silence of survivors against them: "If I was that bad, why are you just hearing about it now?"
- Batterers are known to be tuned in to avoiding detection and using charisma to control.
- When we say or write in our documentation that "the couple engages in DV" or "the parents have a history of DV", what might that convey?

## SLIDE 2-3: PERCEPTION THAT ABUSE AND CONTROL ARE JUSTIFIED

The Perception that Abuse and Control are Justified

- Behaviors to control increase over time.
- The batterer perceives his controlling behavior as justified and therefore sees his partner's reluctance to be controlled as evidence of her mental instability, volatility, or desire to control him.

- Bancroft and Silverman, 2002

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Based on the responses you get, use the group's experience to illustrate the following slides.

### Say:

- ***Add to our list, if it was not covered, that one reason a batterer may be so convincing is that many batterers hold the perception or the conviction that controlling behavior is necessary and justified. The version that the batterer tells the Investigator/DCM may, in fact, be the truth as he sees it.***

## ENTITLEMENT

### SLIDES 2-4: ENTITLEMENT

**Characteristics that are common...**

The overarching attitudinal characteristic is entitlement:

- The belief that one has special rights and privileges without accompanying reciprocal responsibilities
- The belief that violence can be justified against a partner
- The belief that family life should center around the meeting of his needs

### SLIDE 2-5: WHAT ENTITLEMENT LOOKS LIKE

**What Entitlement Looks Like...**

Entitlement in the context of "battering" is evident through:

- Demands for physical and emotional caretaking.
- The perception that when needs or wants are not met, the batterer has been wronged.
- The tendency to see oneself as being provoked to violence.

### SLIDE 2-6: TYPES OF ENTITLEMENT

**Types of Entitlement**

- High demand for service:
  - Insistence that the batterer's needs come first and must be met.
- High level of control:
  - Insistence on controlling even the most mundane actions, decisions, expressions, behaviors, and relationships of the partner.

**Participant Guide  
Module 3, p.7**

### *Summarize and Make the Points:*

- Entitlement is a common feature among batterers and is the basis behind many of the behaviors we have discussed.
- Some persons may make the assumption that members of some races or cultures are more prone to violence against partners or that it is more acceptable. When data on crimes of domestic violence is further analyzed, the only common, significant indicators are income, age, and unemployment.

### *Summarize:*

- Entitlement presents in two major ways:
  - **Demand for Service**, which includes demanding complete caretaking, meeting all of the emotional needs, sexual needs and desires, and physical or comfort-related needs and desires. This can include keeping the children quiet or making the partner and children into servants.
  - **High Control**, or the behaviors that we would attribute to asserting ownership. This includes tracking and controlling interactions, and at the extreme, stalking. Batterers who are focused on high control present as 'owning' their partner and possibly their children, and can be extremely jealous and almost paranoid about any interactions or moves to independence.
  - One accompanying feature of entitlement is a discounting of the needs and wants of other family members. As we know from discussions about attachment and mental health, entitlement may belie a **lack of empathy**, which is a risk factor for many forms of abuse and neglect.

Refer to the Participant Guide, Module 3, page 7—  
Entitlement.

### *Summarize:*


- The elements on your chart are some of the ways we have described seeing the dynamics of domestic violence in our work this morning on the Power and Control wheel.

- Keeping an eye and ear out for the ways that the batterer controls the survivor and the family can make us more effective assessors and interveners.

**SLIDE 2-7: ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Additional Characteristics**

- Confusion of Love and Abuse:
  - “My violence is a result of the intensity of my love for my partner. If I didn’t feel so deeply, I would not get like that.”
- Externalization of Responsibility:
  - “It’s not my fault.”
  - Blaming the violence on stress, substance abuse, issues from childhood, intolerable emotional state




Review the Additional Characteristics and take this opportunity to refer the group, again, to our Power and Control Wheel discussion from Session 1. The group may have identified these behaviors as part of their experience with families.

If you have a case example to illustrate these points, you may also use it here to further show how this helps us identify DV in the field.

**SLIDE 2-8: ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS CONT.**

**Additional Characteristics**

- Serial Battering:
  - Batterers tend to abuse more than one woman over the course of their adult relationships.



**Say:**

- *On these slides, we see some additional characteristics. These characteristics will help us as we move towards screening, later on today.*
- *In particular, it is important to note the trends of justification and of serial battering. Without effective treatment and a strong wish to change, batterers are likely to repeat their actions with future partners...and children.*

**SLIDES 2-9: TYPOLOGY OF BATTERERS**

**Typology of batterers**

- 50% of batterers in research samples inflict low levels of violence and psychological abuse.
- Batterers with strong pro-social connections (employment, community involvement) and without other criminal tendencies are thought to have the best prospects for achieving long-term behavior change.

**Say:**

*The Typology of Batterers is not a precise science, but understanding patterns will assist Investigator/DCMs in assessing the level of danger (or the potential for violence) and determining the integrated services needed to provide treatment and ongoing safety plans with survivors and their children.*

- *For all types of batterers, there is a greater risk of continued assaultive behavior if there is current substance abuse or a long-term history of substance abuse that is associated with violent episodes.*
- *In general, batterers may respond better to concrete consequences for inappropriate behavior and to respectful, consequence-based limit-setting than to appeals for empathy toward victims of violence.*
- *Batterers who have a pro-social orientation, jobs, and who value social connections seem to have improved chances of changing their behaviors.*

**SLIDE 2-10: ANTI-SOCIAL AND HYPERVIOLENT BATTERERS**

**Anti-social or Hyper-violent batterers**

- Have persistent behavioral problems
- Are generally violent, have criminal records that cite multiple violent incidents
- Are more prone to engage in severe or threatening dominance struggles with authority figures.
- In exceptional circumstances this can result in violence towards child welfare personnel or law enforcement.

## MYTH BUSTING

### SLIDE 2-11: MYTH-BUSTING

**Myth-Busting**

1. Domestic violence and substance abuse:
  - Most incidents occur without the use of alcohol.
  - Roughly 80% of men who abuse alcohol do not beat their partners.
2. Domestic violence and mental health problems:
  - Men who are abusive do not have substantially higher rates of psychopathology than men who do not abuse.
  - There is no particular personality disorder or mental illness diagnosis shown consistently by men who abuse.

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### SLIDE 2-12: MYTH-BUSTING, CONT.

**Myth-Busting, continued**

3. Men who abuse their partners have poor impulse control:
  - Abusive patterns reveal behaviors that require forethought. "Battering" is seen as a pattern of behaviors, rather than impulsive reactions.
  - Further evidence of this can be seen in the rate at which men who abuse can calm themselves when the police arrive.

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### SLIDE 2-13: MYTH-BUSTING, CONT.

**Myth Busting, Continued**

"I think I could tell if he was an batterer...."

- Many batterers use systems such as the juvenile and probate courts and the child protection system to punish battered women through struggles for custody.
- Batterers are able to perform well under formal observation.

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## PARENTING BEHAVIORS OF BATTERERS

### SLIDE 2-14: THE RANGE OF PARENTING BEHAVIORS OF FATHERS WHO ENGAGE IN DV

**The Range of Parenting Behaviors of Batters who engage in DV**

- Children can be made into "accomplices", siding against the survivor.
- Batterers sometimes encourage children to disrespect their mothers (psychological abuse) or to assault them (physical abuse).
- Children are used to manipulate the survivor, reveal safety plans or whereabouts, or to spy on the survivor.
- Child visitation can be used to obtain access to mothers.

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*Summarize* the 'Myth Busting' Slides which are taken from Lundy Bancroft and Jay Silverman's Book, *The Batterer as Parent*.

#### *Summarize:*

- Identifying co-occurring conditions simply points to the need for integrated and informed service planning: when conditions co-occur, blaming the violence on co-occurring conditions may mask the true issues and keep the family from coming to terms with the DV.
- Understanding the level of control and strategy employed to maintain power and control is important in effective safety planning.

#### *Summarize:*

- The system response to DV has improved over the years, but there are still ways that the legal system can be manipulated to further empower the batterer, particularly when the survivor has been systematically discredited over the years. Seeking assistance with community partners to collaboratively find and address the ways that batterers escape or avoid accountability extends beyond child welfare to the systems listed in the third slide.

Using the bullets in the powerpoints—which are also taken from the Bancroft/Silverman book and other sources—discuss the findings and make the following points, integrating examples from the morning session.

#### *Summarize:*

- One obvious and effective way to control survivors and children is to use one against the other.
- This includes threatening survivors with harm to children, and threatening children with harm to survivors to maintain compliance with the batterer's wishes.
- The specific parenting style of the batterer can and tends to vacillate between extremes.

**SLIDE 2-15: THE RANGE OF PARENTING BEHAVIORS OF FATHERS WHO ENGAGE IN DV, CONT.**

The Range of Parenting Behaviors of Batterers who engage in DV

- Batterers tend to vacillate between being authoritarian and rigid to maintain control with an intolerance for resistance or argument and
- Permissive or neglectful, either to curry favor with children or because of pre-occupation with self.
- Children are at risk of abuse: 50% of men who regularly abuse their partners also physically abuse their children.

- Engagement of the children into the abuse is also common, both overtly and covertly, through having them participate physically, or asking the children to support the batterer’s position that the survivor deserves abuse.

**Note:** Often in child welfare cases, the male in the household is under-involved in interviews, case planning and monitoring based on custodial, biological relationships, timing of visits, and perhaps a cultural view that women are responsible for the family.

**Ask:**  
*How could the combination of this undermining behavior and our own filters impact the way that we view the family?*

**Ask the group:**  
**As we further look at the Batterer Dynamics, what more do you see in the families you described this morning?**

**SLIDE 2-16: BATTERERS PREVENT PARTNERS FROM EFFECTIVE PARENTING**

Batterers who engage in DV actively work to prevent Partners from Effective Parenting

- Increased physical abuse and murder rates during pregnancy.
- Direct interference:
  - Keeping the mother from comforting or picking up the child(ren)
  - Contradiction and undermining the mother’s attempts at limit setting and discipline
- Indirect Interference and Undermining:
  - Harsh and frequent criticism of the survivor’s parenting
  - Directing an older child to be in charge of parenting, implying that the survivor is incapable

Again, refer to the behaviors described in our Power and Control Activity to make the examples real.

- Say:**
- *One of the predominant ways that batterers impact the family is to actively work to prevent their partners from effective parenting.*
  - *As we have discussed in other training modules, the resiliency factor that helps children overcome difficult situations is to have one safe adult to turn to.*
  - *Undermining the survivor in the parental role can rob the child of this important factor, at least until further work is done.*

**Ask:**  
*“Based on what we have discussed...what do you think is important for you as an Investigator/DCM to do and say in your initial conversations with batterers?”*

*Endorse or raise the following possible responses:*

- Convey respect for the batterer as a person as well as YOUR concern for the children regarding the impact that the batterer’s behaviors are having on the children.
- Convey what YOU see that is a worry, being careful not to convey blame to the survivor for what the survivor says and has experienced.

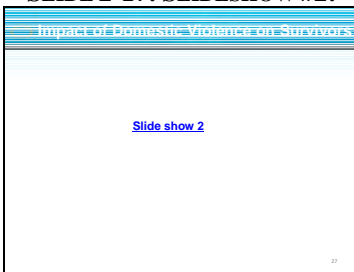


- Try not to escalate the chances of retaliation against the survivor or children.
- Conduct the interview with law enforcement present to strengthen the message to the batterer and encourage involvement of the criminal justice and legal system.

**TRANSITION**

*Now we will take a look at the impact of these behaviors on other members of the family. We are going to see a slideshow that ends with a series of behaviors you may see when you are working with survivors around domestic violence. This list was compiled by survivors.*

**SLIDE 2-17: SLIDESHOW #2:**



**Play Slideshow #2:** Impact on Survivors of Domestic Violence

**DISCUSSION**

**Ask the group:**

*Is there anything in the list of responses you saw that surprises you?*

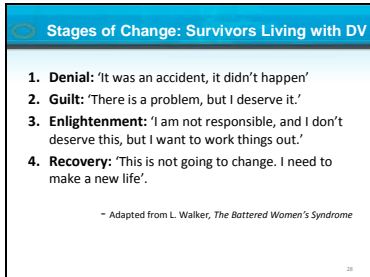
**Participant Guide  
Module 3, p.8**

Refer to Participant Guide, Module 3, page 8—Range of Behavior of Domestic Violence Survivors.

**TRAINER NOTE**

It is likely that someone will volunteer that they cannot understand continued attachment to someone who would hurt you like that. The group may manage this on their own, but in facilitating the conversation, it is helpful to use responses as a way to get to the purpose of this piece of our training.

**SLIDE 2-18: STAGES OF CHANGE**



**Say:**

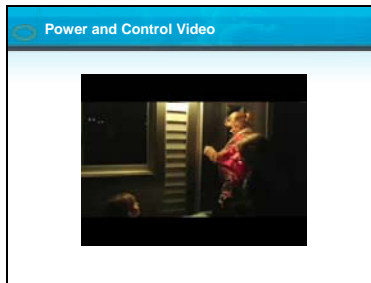
- *Originally this particular Stages of Change model was known as the Battered Woman's Syndrome, developed by Dr. Lenore Walker.*
- *These stages still resonate with many survivors of domestic violence who went through a progression of understanding:*
  - *Believing in the beginning that the acts of coercion and control were accidental or didn't happen.*
  - *Beginning to believe that they were responsible for their partner's behaviors: They "deserved" their partner's behaviors.*

- *Realizing that their partner's behaviors might be remedied through marriage or other types of counseling.*
- *Coming to the realization that their partner is not going to change the behaviors and that they need to end the relationship.*

**Participant Guide  
Module 3, p.10**

Refer to your Participant Guide, Module 3, page 10, where you have a copy of the Stages of Change chart.

**SLIDE 2-19: POWER AND CONTROL  
TRAILER**



**Introduce the film clip.** We will watch a 10 minute trailer from an upcoming film, **Power and Control: Domestic Violence in America**. This trailer is posted on YouTube and we are using it with permission from the producer/director. The release date of the film was spring of 2010 and is available for purchase from [www.powerandcontrolfilm.com](http://www.powerandcontrolfilm.com).

Invite the group to respond to the film first.

**Ask:**

*Which of the impacts and dynamics we have discussed did you see in relation to some of what Kim M. and other survivors present?*

**Ask:**

*Using the stages we just reviewed, what did Kim tell us about her own progression through survival and ultimately, leaving?*

*Why did Kim stay in the relationship for 10 years?*

**Endorse:**

- Wanting to preserve her marriage
- Wanting a father for her children
- She grew up in a home where she witnessed DV
- Low self- esteem
- Not believing she deserved better
- The position her husband holds (prison guard)

*What did Kim M. describe as her 'turning point'?*

- Seeing the impact on her children
- Trying to coerce him into stopping and not succeeding



**Say:**

- *The turning point for many survivors is the moment when they believe they can no longer provide safety for themselves or their children. For many women, it is as if a light goes on and they see the ways that they have minimized or denied the abuse.*
- *For many survivors with children, most of the survivor’s energy goes towards providing some safety and comfort for the children, even in the midst of the DV. In other words, the survivor takes big and small steps to try to isolate the children from the impact of the violence, even when she feels most disempowered.*

**Ask:**


**What did you notice about the law enforcement response?**

- Judgmental demeanor of officer who asked, “Why didn’t you call?”
- Frustration of law enforcement
- Empathy of female officer
- Difficulty for those persons working with domestic violence situations

**Discuss** briefly the commonality of personal filters we might bring as Investigators/DCMs.

**SLIDE 2-20: REASONS WHY SHE STAYS**

1. \*Why does the batterer batter? Why does this continue in our society?  
2. Separation violence  
3. Psychological terror and brainwashing (Stockholm Syndrome)  
4. For the children: custody or harm.  
5. Isolation from support  
6. Some still love the batterer




**Summarize:**

- These slides are based on an article by Susan McGee, “Twenty Reasons Why She Stays.” There is a web site reference in your bibliography if you would like to read the article.
- She asks us why we even ask this question, “Why does she stay?” instead of asking, “Why does the batterer batter? Why does this behavior continue in our society?”
- There is a compelling body of evidence that separation does not end the violence, in fact it often escalates the violence. One study indicates that 73% of the battered women seeking emergency medical services sustained injuries after leaving the batterer (Stark et al., 1981). Many studies of women killed have shown that substantial numbers were killed as a result of separating or divorcing from the men who killed them.

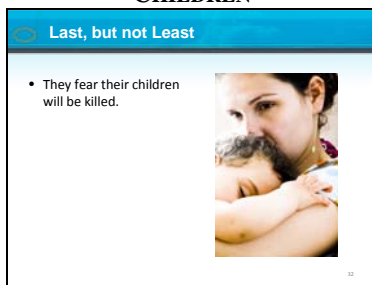
**SLIDE 2-21: REASONS SHE STAYS, CONT.**

6. They believe counseling will help  
7. Cannot get protection or services  
8. Legal System failings  
9. Historically disempowered  
10. Cultural, moral, and religious values



- The “Stockholm Syndrome” is often used as an explanatory model by law enforcement. This describes the condition of hostages identifying with, becoming attached to, and taking the side of their captors.
- Emotional abuse will be used to attack the woman’s spirit and sense of her own value. It may involve withholding food and water, sleep deprivation, administering drugs, total isolation, making a woman believe she is crazy. It may include rape, sexual abuse, and sexual humiliation. It may include harming pets.
- Women will be threatened with loss of custody of the children if they leave. There is anecdotal evidence that men who batter are more likely to try harder to gain custody, and to succeed. Women stay as they believe their children will be safer when they are there to protect them.
- Women have become isolated from their family and sources of support. They may be afraid that their family will face violence or retribution from the batterer if they attempt to go stay with family.

**SLIDE 2-22: SURVIVORS PROTECTING CHILDREN**



Consider this last and most important reason that survivors stay.

**Ask:**

*What are some examples you have seen in your practice of ways that survivors tried to protect the children before they were able to leave the relationship?*

*What other strengths might we see in survivors?*

**Endorse or raise:**

- Meeting basic needs of family with limited allowance
- Getting children to school each day

**Say:**

*If we are going to empower survivors to change their situation, they must believe that we can accurately see their strengths and efforts if we want them to be able to see the danger we are concerned with.*



**Ask:**

***Based on what we have discussed about the impact of DV on survivors, what do you think is important for you as a DCM investigator to do and say in your initial conversations with survivors?"***

*Endorse or raise the following possible responses:*

- Convey empathy for their difficult situation
- Convey admiration for how hard they have worked to protect themselves/their children (as appropriate)
- Convey that you had heard similar stories from other survivors and are beginning to understand how difficult it can be to protect self/children
- Convey worry for safety of mom and children
- Convey desire to be a helpful partner to mom in planning and strengthening her safety, and her children's safety

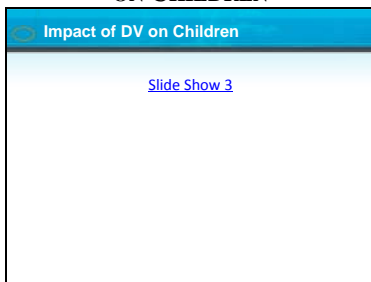
**TRANSITION**

*As with survivors, children exposed to batterers experience a range of reactions. Their reactions may mimic some of the behaviors of each parent or adult, as the child tries to find a way to navigate the dangerous dynamics of DV.*

**Participant Guide  
Module 3, p.11**

Refer to Module 3, page 11—Possible Symptoms in Children Exposed to Domestic Violence—in your Participant Guide.

**SLIDE 2-23: SLIDESHOW #3: IMPACT ON CHILDREN**



***Play Slideshow #3: Impact on Children***

**Ask:**

***Which of the slides confirmed what you have seen and experienced?***

***Which ones surprised you?*** Discuss responses to the slideshow and facilitate integration of the slides with the experiences the group has had.

**Participant Guide  
Module 3, p. 12**

Note: Common behavior responses based on children's age are listed on the Participant Guide, p. 12.

**Say:**

*There are some more dramatic data points relevant to child safety that I would like to discuss in detail.*

**SLIDE 2-24: IMPACT OF DV ON CHILDREN**

Impact of DV on Children

- Daughters of batterers are 6.5 times more likely than other girls to be the victims of incest.
- 63% of boys between the ages of 11 and 20 years of age, who commit murder, commit murder against their mother's batterer.
- Sons of batterers are 1,000 times more likely to commit domestic violence themselves.

**Ask:**

***What is some of your experience with boys' reactions after being raised with Domestic Violence?***

**Say:**

*Florida has an initiative to help teens prevent teen dating violence, and proactively prevent young men from repeating what they grew up with. Many shelters work directly with children.*

*You can find more information on this initiative through the FCADV. There are several national preventive programs to impact how boys see violence, particularly against partners.*

**Ask:**

***Based on what we have learned about the internal workings of batterers (entitlement, justification) and the system the batterer creates, how do you make the connection between DV and sexual abuse?***

*Sample Responses:*

- Entitlement and service/control are factors in sexual abuse within families.
- Isolation and secrecy create an environment where the batterer becomes omnipotent.
- 'Deposed' survivors would extend their feelings of helplessness to intervening in the batterers actions with children.

**Ask:**

***How could knowing this connection help you in your work with families?***

**Say:**

*This is some very heavy and difficult material to cover, and before we break and end our section on impact, we want to think about the tremendous strengths we see, everyday, in combating domestic violence.*

- *Survivors DO leave: in fact there are millions of survivors who leave in our country and never come to our attention.*
- *Children have resiliency factors.*

**Say:**

*And this brings us to another piece of good news: Increasingly, child welfare systems are partnering more and more with community supports for survivors and programs, particularly law enforcement, to promote accountability and change for batterers.*

*As you look at this list of resiliency or protective factors, what role do we play with children and youth we meet in the course of our work?*

- *We may be the one caring adult who can re-connect the child to the survivor during our intervention.*
- *We may be the one to whom the child can speak openly about their worries and/or fears, or at least, help children get connected with helpful interventions.*
- *We can give children and youth hope that they do not have to live with violence.*

**TRANSITION**

*In our next session, we will look at specific approaches we can take to screen families for DV and add to our understanding of dangerousness so that our plans incorporate safety for the survivor, building protective factors for herself and her children, and working collaboratively within our community.*