

From: Hoskins Stephanie K
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 4:34 PM
To: Sybil Hebb
Subject: FW: Co-Located Advocates

In August of 2012 I was invited by a DHS-CW caseworker to a home visit where DV was the main safety threat to the 2 year old child. The caseworker introduced me to the teen mom. I shared with this mom the effects of DV on children and how it affects her overall health. I shared the local programs that would help her live safely with her child so she knew there was help available and that she wasn't alone. The caseworker let her know that the DV was not her fault and didn't deserve to be treated this way. However, DV affects children's overall safety and that's where her concern was. The caseworker told the mom that when she was ready to seek help from us that she could always come to us. I reiterated that it is DHS-CW practices to keep children safe and together with the non-offending parent which would be her. She seemed relieved. She thanked us for coming, the resources and said she was ok for now.

In November or early December of 2012, this teen mom came into DHS-CW asking for help. She saw this agency as a resource and a help. I made contact with the mom the next day. She was ready to leave and seek the needed resources to be safe and away with her child. I offered her safe shelter through our agency (WCST) and she gladly accepted. She asked for a TA-DVS grant and was given it. We supported her decision to obtain a restraining order and it was granted. A local attorney (Deborah Cumming) donated her time to defend her in court against her abuser. This local attorney is also helping her file for divorce and custody.

This teen mom was just approved for an apartment of her very own. She has moved in and now is seeking furniture. She has a license but no car. She is very appreciative that she met us that day. You see, her mother is also a victim of DV and this mom remembers her childhood and not in a good way. It is her desire to offer her daughter a home where there is peace, joy, and tranquility.

The second story involves an older mom with a young son. She is educated, has a home and a business. To her, her deep dark secret was the abuse she incurred at the hands of her husband. He was horribly violent to her and in the presence of their son. DHS-CW took me out on a home visit on a call they received that was the result of mom needing stitches due to the abuse from her husband. Due to this visit, mom decided to join the support group that I facilitate at DHS-CW once a week. She attended this group for 6 months and grew in knowledge and strength. I offered her support while asking for a TA-DVS grant and other DHS-SS services so she could make it on her own. She decided to move where she had support as her husband moved her to a town that was unfamiliar to her. She is now living safe and together in another state with her son. She is grateful for one DHS-CW caseworker in particular that helped her not feel victimized and for the time she had listening to my information in regards to DV as it relates to her and her son's overall health. She thanked us both as a whole working with her.

The DHS-CW position has been a great help in supporting women and children navigate through the CW and SS of Josephine County. By doing this, we promote safe shelter and any means necessary for all of our clients to remain safe and keep their children. Thank you.