

# Collaborative Efforts: Waukesha County CPS & The Women's Center



## WAUKESHA COUNTY HHS PRESENTERS:

JENNIFER ADLER, CSW

INITIAL CPS SUPERVISOR

ALLIE KRUEGER

INITIAL CPS SOCIAL WORKER

## TWC PRESENTERS:

KRYSTAL CHASE, MS, CCTS-I, CCTS-S

DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY & SUPPORT SERVICES

JESSICA TRAUTH, MA, CCTS-I, CCTS-S

DIRECTOR OF SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL LIVING



# Goals for today



- We will discuss...
  - Intersections of domestic violence and child welfare issues
  - Collaborative communication between counties and DV/SA/HT service providers
  - The process for developing MOUs and/or contracts that meets both Federal and State statutes



## The Women's Center

- Krystal Chase, MS, CCTS-I, CCTS-S
  - Director of advocacy & Support Services
- Jessica Trauth, MA, CCTS-I, CCTS-S
  - Director of Shelter & Transitional living

## Waukesha Co. HHS

- Jennifer Adler, CSW
  - Initial CPS Supervisor
- Allie Krueger, CSW
  - Initial CPS Social Worker

# What We Know



In an estimated 30 to 60 percent of families in which either child maltreatment or exposure to adult domestic violence is occurring, the other form of violence also is being perpetrated.

RCDV: CPC. *Co-Occurrence of Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Exposure.*

<https://www.rcdvcpc.org/co-occurrence-of-child-abuse-and-domestic-violence-exposure.html>. (Citing Appel & Holden, 1998; Edleson, 1999; Herrenkohl et al., 2008; Jouriles et al., 2008; Osofsky, 2003.)



# Understanding each role and their responsibilities

## CW Professional

- Assess child safety
- Plans to ensure for safety of child (protective plans, temporary physical custody, etc.)
- Provide support services
- CPS not voluntary

## DV Advocate

- Confidential
- Support not rescue
- Provide resources and options
- Voluntary - client directed

# The Issues



**INTERSECTION OF DV AND CHILD WELFARE**

# Child Welfare vs. DV Agencies



## Similarities

- Mission to protect vulnerable populations
- Trauma-Informed Approach
- Collaboration with other services
- Case management and support services
- Advocacy

## Differences

- Focus of services
- Legal mandates
- Preventative vs Reactive
- Services to perpetrators

# Barriers



- Conflicting Approaches to Safety
- Lack of Cross-Training
- Language
- Legal and Policy Conflicts
- Philosophical Differences in Family Preservation



# Language



## CW Professionals

- Safety Plan
  - Children focused
- ROI
  - Good for 2 years unless specified
  - IA vs Ongoing
- Mandated Reporting

## TWC

- Safety Plan
  - Family focused
- ROI
  - Time limited and specific
  - All family members whose info
- Mandated Reporting

# Improving Collaboration



**STATEWIDE:**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HANDBOOK FOR  
WISCONSIN CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING

**WAUKESHA COUNTY:**  
EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION  
MOUS  
CONTRACT AND CONFIDENTIALITY/NON-  
DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT



- Improve education efforts to staff (in-person presentations)
- Tours of TWC
- New staff meet and greets
- Increase informal collaborations
- Contracts
  - Improve oversight
  - Site visits/monthly communication

# Contracts



- TWC and the County had contracts for several programs including residential and non-residential services.
- Through a grant from DCF, End Abuse WI worked with TWC and Waukesha CW to create an updated and formalized MOU
  - This group was comprised of 3 staff from TWC and 4 staff from CW. It met once a month for about a year to review policies, current collaborative efforts, identify areas of focus/ improvement, and create a plan for a collaborative partnership.
  - While the process did not end in a completed MOU it did lay the foundation for the strong working relationship we experience today

# Referrals



**WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY**



# How we started



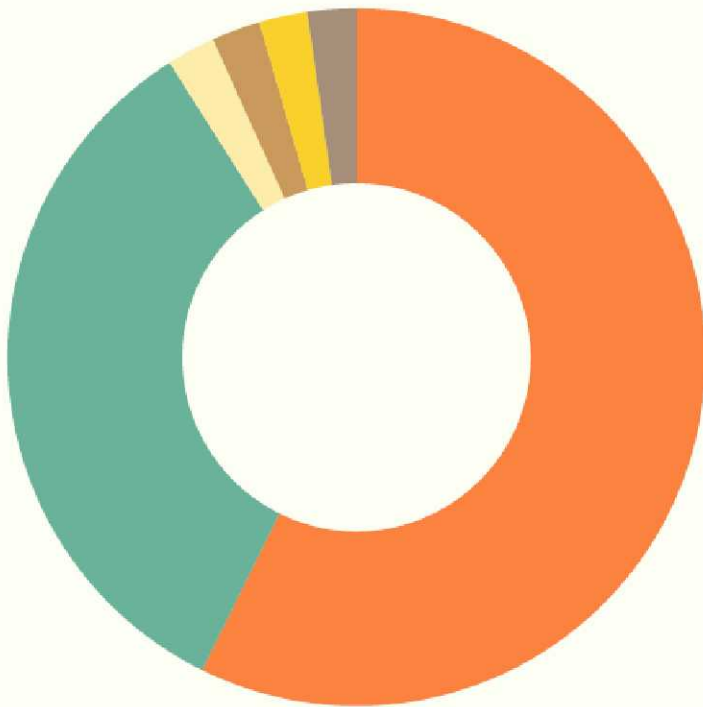
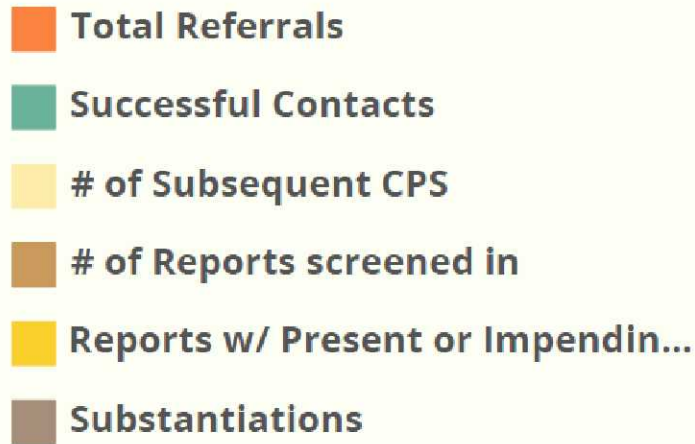
- HHS sends reports made by LE responding to a DV call where children were present, and it did not meet criteria for investigation to TWC.
- TWC assigns the family to an Advocate and calls everyone to offer resources and services.
  - TWC will make 3 outgoing attempts to connect
  - If contact wasn't made TWC sends letter about services
- TWC tracks for engagement across multiple programs
- HHS tracks for subsequent calls

# 2023 Stats



CPS REFERRALS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2023 TOTALS
NUMBER OF REFERRALS RECEIVED	6	16	9	20	51
CONTACT ATTEMPTED	6	16	9	20	51
PERCENTAGE OF ATTEMPTED CONTACT	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
CONTACT SUCCESSFUL	1	10	5	14	30
PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESSFUL CONTACTS	17%	63%	56%	70%	59%

## 2023 Stats



Total Referrals: 51  
Successful Contacts: 30 or 59%  
# of Subsequent CPS: 2  
# of reports screened in: 2  
Reports with Present or  
Impending Danger: 2  
Substantiations: 2

# 2024 through 2<sup>nd</sup> Q



CPS REFERRALS	Q1	Q2	YTD
NUMBER OF REFERRALS RECEIVED	15	25	40
CONTACT ATTEMPTED	15	25	40
PERCENTAGE OF ATTEMPTED CONTACT	100%	100%	100%
CONTACT SUCCESSFUL	14	19	33
PERCENTAGE OF SUCCESSFUL CONTACTS	93%	76%	83%
CAREGIVER MADE AN APPT.	7	8	15

# What changed



- 2024 added reports sent to TWC from all mandated reporters in the county

## The Future:

- Increase reports sent to TWC to include multiple reports from multiple reporters concerned for well being of family
- Roll this out to agencies on a regional setting