


## Empowered Families Kansas Project Webinar

### Expanding Our Silos: Building Effective Collaboration Between Child Welfare Professionals and Domestic Violence Advocates

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### Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to describe at least 2 of the key components of an effective collaboration.
2. Participants will be able to distinguish between the different confidentiality requirements of child welfare professionals and domestic violence advocates.
3. Participants will be able to differentiate the mandatory reporting requirements of child welfare professionals versus domestic violence advocates.
4. Participants will be able to explain how collaborating with their local domestic violence agency can help enhance safety for survivors and their children, as well as, hold offenders accountable.

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**Hello  
my name is**

*Awesome*

## Introductions

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**Kansas Coalition**  
against violence &  
domestic violence



**RESILIENCE**

**What is the Empowered Families  
Kansas Project?**

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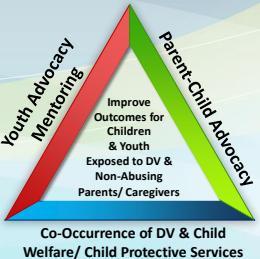
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**Kansas Coalition**  
against violence &  
domestic violence

**EFK Project Components**



**Youth Advocacy Mentoring**

**Parent-Child Advocacy**

Improve Outcomes for Children & Youth Exposed to DV & Non-Abusing Parents/ Caregivers

**Co-Occurrence of DV & Child Welfare/ Child Protective Services**

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**Kansas Coalition**  
against violence &  
domestic violence

**EFK Project Guiding Principles**



**NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Implementation**

**RESILIENCE**




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**Projected Long-Term Outcomes**



- Increase youth well-being and connectedness.
- Increase children and youth's safety and permanency.
- Improve service delivery for youth and their families impacted by domestic violence.

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**COLLABORATION**



**Examples**

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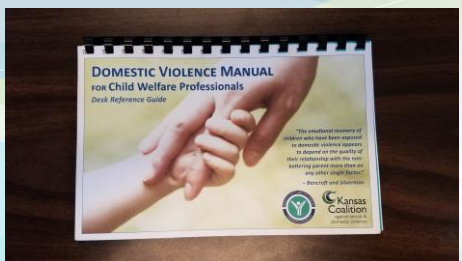
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**Domestic Violence Manual for Child Welfare Professionals: Desk Reference Guide**




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**Laying the Foundation**

1. Come together.
2. Define your goal and purpose.
3. Determine how you'll work together.



(KCSOV, 2015) 10

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**1. Come Together**

- Identify who is needed in the collaborative.
- Set the right meeting environment.
- Understand components of successful collaboration.
- Identify what each group member has to contribute to the collaborative.
- Identify the benefits of participating in the collaborative.

(KCSOV, 2015) 11

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**2. Define Your Purpose**

- Identify and understand each other's common goals.
- Define the collaborative group's agreed upon end goals.
- Determine the best avenue for outreach efforts.
  - Who should be at the table?
- Develop vision and mission statements.
  - "If our success could be guaranteed, what would be the end result of our efforts?"
- Define and clarify roles; respect unique roles.

(KCSOV, 2015)

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 **Poll Everywhere Instructions**

- **Log in by web browser or text message.**
  - Regular text messaging rates may apply.
- **Web browser:**
  - Log into
    - [PollEv.com/kristinascot705](http://PollEv.com/kristinascot705)
- **Text message:**
  - Text [KRISTINASCOT705](https://www.kristinascot705.com) to [22333](https://www.kristinascot705.com) to join the session, then text in your response to each poll.

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 **Ask the Audience:**

How can we ensure the voices of survivors and parents are included in the collaboration?

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 **3. Determining How You'll Work Together**

- **Develop:**
  - Guiding principles or group norms
  - Internal communication strategies
  - A collaboration charter or memorandum of understanding.
  - Roles and commitments of group members.

(KCSOV, 2015)

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**Collaboration on All the Levels**

- Individual & systems level collaboration often intermingle.
  - On behalf of
    - An individual – this specific person/family or a future person/family
    - All families
- Can occur at multiple levels:
  - For example, policy change
    - Local
    - State
    - Federal
- Are you coming together to collaborate for an individual who is interacting with a system or working for overall systemic change?
  - Even when individual, has implications for long-term systemic change
  - Individual collaboration can become a springboard for larger systemic change
  - Systemic change has very real implications for individual victims

(KCSOV, 2013)

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**Challenges to Collaborative Relationships**

- Lack of training regarding criminal justice system
- Lack of training on domestic violence and impact on victim
- Systems working independently of each other
- Roles and functions aren't clear
- Similarities are not recognized and differences not accepted
- Lack of trust
- No interest in collaborating

(Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Training, 2014)

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**Ask the Audience:**

**What creative ways have you collaborated in your community?**

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## Opportunities to Collaborate

**Don't get stuck in the past – wipe the slate clean!**

- Networking
- Attend cross training opportunities
- Host a joint training, so networking can take place
- Learn from each other – builds on understanding roles and functions
- Have a process in place for conflict resolution
- Open communication
- Formalize collaborative partnership if necessary
  - Form a team and create protocols

(Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Training, 2014)

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## Looking Outside our Silos

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**Where do I fit into all these systems?**



**How do we all work together?**

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## Ask the Audience:

**How does each profession work to:**

- promote safety for survivors of DV and their children?
- Hold offenders accountable?

- Child Welfare Staff (DCF, Reintegration, Family Pres, etc.)
- Domestic Violence Advocates
- Criminal Justice System (Law Enforcement, Judges, Courts)

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### DCF/Child Abuse Investigation Staff

- Assesses risk and safety
- Gathers specific information about family dynamics
- Screens for domestic violence- Who is the offender and who is the victim?
- Determines if further intervention is warranted
- Connects to services such as family preservation, reintegration, and social service benefits
- First on-scene, sets the tone and family's perspective of the help they will receive and how the family will be received by outside professionals

### Direct Foster Care Staff (permanency specialists, family support workers, family pres. workers, adoption workers, etc.)

- Ongoing safety planning and risk assessment
- Hold offenders accountable through case plan tasks and documentation
- Enhances safety for survivors and their children through case plan tasks and documentation
- Supports victims and offenders in navigating the child welfare and legal system
- Assists in connecting families to resources and referrals

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### Domestic Violence Advocates

- Immediate crisis intervention (may include safe shelter)
- Personal safety planning
- Assistance with resources and referrals
- Personal and community advocacy
- On-going support and follow-up as needed and as requested
- Supports survivors in navigating the child welfare and legal system
- Can assist child welfare workers in safety planning for themselves or for survivors
- Support groups for survivors and their children

### Batterer Intervention Programs

- Connects the offender to resources and referrals
- Supervision of the offender
- Monitors progress of the offender on taking responsibility and making changes
- Teaches offenders about abusive behavior and how to replace those behaviors with non-violent ones
- Monitors safety concerns and change in offenders behaviors with victims



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**Law Enforcement Officers**

- Arrest of the offender
- Evidence collection for successful prosecution of the offender
- Connection of victim to advocacy services
- Can assist workers by being present for meetings with high risk offenders
- Sends messages and sets the tone for how the family will be received by outside professionals

**Judges**

- Sets guidelines and limits on the offender
- Monitors progress of the offender on taking responsibility and making changes
- Promotes the safety of the survivor and the children
- Can charge or sentence the offender for criminal acts
- Issue a Protection from Abuse order or "no contact" order against the offender
- Sends messages and sets the tone for how the family will be received by outside professionals

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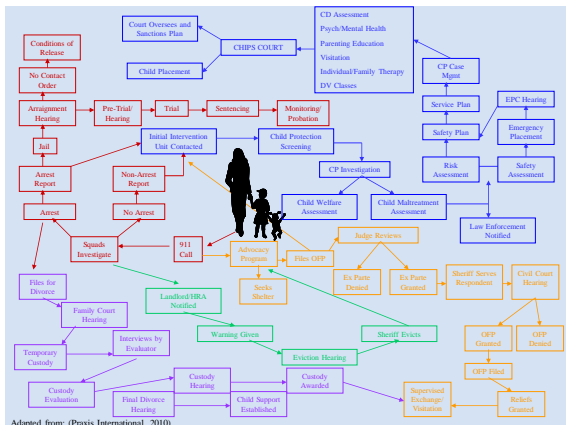
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**How are we the same?  
How are we different?**

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 **Understanding Reasonable Efforts**

- **Per the DCF PPM Printed July 1, 2018**
  - “Reasonable efforts shall be made to prevent the removal of the child from the home.”
  - “In those situations where a child has been removed from his/her home, the Child Welfare Case Management Provider is responsible for the provision of services to facilitate reintegration”
  - “Demonstrating reasonable efforts to return a child home when there is a concurrent plan is especially important.”

(KDCF, 2018)

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 **Understanding Reasonable Efforts, cont'd**

- **Per the DCF PPM Printed July 1, 2018**
  - “When the child is in DCF custody and placed out of the home for **12 continuous months, or 15 of the last 22 months**, consideration shall be given to the termination of parental rights.”
  - Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, it is expected the Child Welfare Case Management Provider shall pursue termination of parental rights.”

(KDCF, 2018)

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 **Understanding the Guiding Principles of Advocacy**

- Competent
- Safe and Confidential
- Respect, Dignity and Compassion
- Informed by Survivors
- Trauma-Informed and Survivor-Centered

(KCSOV, 2013)

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**Guiding Principles for Core Services Cont'd**

- Culturally Relevant
  - Services are informed by the traditions, customs and beliefs of the survivor. Additionally, all interpreter services must be provided by a trained interpreter.
- Free and Voluntary
- Universally Accessible
- Available to All
  - All services must be available to all persons regardless of ethnicity, education level, economic status, sexual orientation, immigration status, geographic location, spiritual beliefs, physical or mental ability or criminal status.

(KCSOV, 2013)

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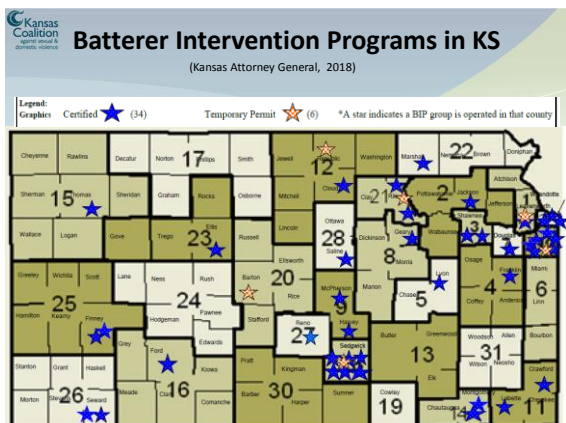
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**Differences in Confidentiality and Releases of Information**

Let's look at the differences.

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**SA/DV Agency** → Shall not disclose personally identifying information about a victim  
**UNLESS:**

- Release
- Statutory Mandate
- Court Mandate

(Field, 2009)

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**Confidentiality in Advocacy**

- When information sharing is mandated by statutory or court order, advocates work closely with the survivor to address **safety concerns** and **needs**.
- When information sharing is mandated, advocates can provide **only** that information required under law.
  - **Not any and all information known**

(Field, 2009)

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**Confidentiality in Advocacy**

- Domestic violence or sexual assault advocates **cannot** share confidential information **without** a written, time-limited **release signed by the victim**.
- Sharing information can truly **impact** the **safety** of the victim, so advocates provide information about a victim's options and will support the decisions made by the victim.

(Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Training, 2014)

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## Confidentiality in Advocacy, cont'd

- The role of the advocate is to act to **protect survivors' right** to autonomy, privacy, and confidentiality to the greatest extent possible by adhering to the **federal confidentiality provisions**.
- If information sharing is not mandated by law, advocates **cannot** share it.

(Field, 2009)

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## Documentation Differences

### Child Welfare Documentation:

- Adage
  - “If it is not documented, it did not happen”
- Detailed and factual
- Unbiased
- Only clearly stated observations.
- No impressions, speculations, or assumptions.
  - For example: **Mrs. Smith seemed to be \_\_\_\_\_ or Mrs. Smith appeared to be \_\_\_\_\_**, versus
  - **Mrs. Smith stated “\_\_\_\_\_” in response to “\_\_\_\_\_”**

### Advocacy Documentation:

- Adage
  - “Less is best”
- Simply a checklist of services provided
- Minimal amount of personally identifying information as possible
- Only what is needed to meet grant requirements

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## Mandatory Reporting




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**Mandatory Reporting**

- Kansas law requires certain professionals to promptly report when they have reason to suspect that a child has been harmed because of:
  - physical, mental or emotional abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse.
- An advocate may be a mandated reporter and required by statute to release survivor information in situations of suspected child abuse if the advocate is also a licensed professional or is otherwise engaged in certain professions.

(KCSOV, 2011)

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**Mandatory Reporting, cont'd**

- Domestic violence advocates are not included in the definition of mandated reporters of child abuse as defined by Kansas statute.
- That does not mean advocates do nothing if they have concerns that a child they are working with is being abused.
- Advocates address child abuse-related concerns by:
  - Providing direct intervention,
  - Ongoing advocacy,
  - Resources, and referrals that enhance safety and support for survivors and their children.

(KCSOV, 2011)

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**Mandatory Reporting Resource**

A Guide to Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect  
Compiled by  
The Kansas Department for Children and Families

(KDCF, 2016)

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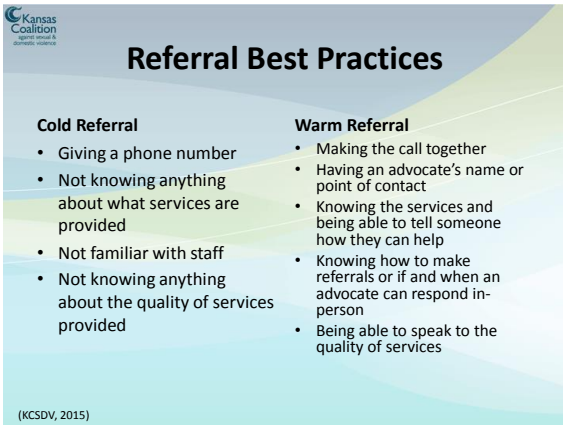
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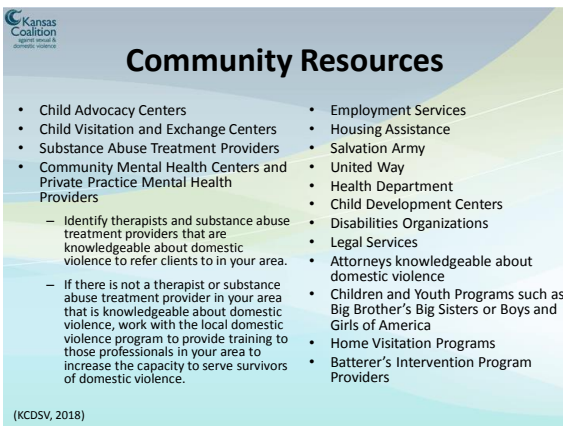
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**Domestic and Sexual Violence Advocacy Programs in Kansas**

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**Services Provided by Advocacy Programs**

- Crisis Intervention
- Supportive Counseling
- Hotline Services
- Support Groups
- Medical Advocacy
- Court Advocacy
- Law Enforcement Advocacy
- Emergency Accommodation
- Personal Advocacy
- Shelter
- Child/Youth Services
- Parent & Child Advocacy
- Community Awareness & Education

(KCSDV, 2013)

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**KCSDV is a Resource, too!**

[www.kcsdv.org](http://www.kcsdv.org)

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**Kansas Coalition**  
against sexual violence & domestic violence

### KCSDV and Child Welfare Collaborative Opportunities

**HELP  
AND  
SUPPORT**

**The Kansas Coalition can assist and support child welfare professionals with:**

- Technical Assistance
  - Can help to answer questions or provide current resources around:
    - Domestic Violence
    - Sexual Violence
    - Stalking
    - Dating Violence
- Referrals to local and national resources
- Training for your agency and/or team both in-person and remotely through webinars
- Educational materials and resources including the most recent research
- Building collaboration between local domestic violence advocacy programs and local child welfare agencies

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**Kansas Coalition**  
against sexual violence & domestic violence

### KCSDV Projects

- Advocacy
- Children & Youth
- Criminal Justice
- Education and Training
- Immigration
- Legal Advocacy
- People with Disabilities
- Prison Rape Elimination
- Outreach Advocacy
- Prevention
- Protection Orders
- Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner & Sexual Assault Response Team
- Underserved Communities

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**Kansas Coalition**  
against sexual violence & domestic violence

### Questions?

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**Resources**

- **Local domestic violence & sexual assault programs**  
– <http://www.kcsdv.org/find-help.html>
- **Kansas Crisis Hotline**  
– 1-888-END ABUSE (1-888-363-2287)
- **National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
– 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)  
– <http://www.thehotline.org/>
- ***The Batterer as Parent 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*** by Lundy Bancroft, Jay Silverman, and Daniel Ritchie
- **Safe and Together Institute, formerly David Mandel & Ass.**  
– <http://endingviolence.com/>




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**Culturally Specific Resources**

- **Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence**  
– <https://www.api-gbv.org/>
- **National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center**  
– <http://www.niwrc.org/>
- **Case de Esperanza**  
– <https://casadeesperanza.org/>

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**Resources for LGBTQ**

- **The Network La Red**  
– <http://tnlr.org/en/about-us/>
- **The Northwest Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse**  
– <http://www.nwnetwork.org/>
- **The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs**  
– <https://avp.org/ncavp/>
- **FORGE**  
– <http://forge-forward.org/>
- **The Trevor Project**  
– Crisis Hotline for LGBTQ Youth: 866-488-7396  
– <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>




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**How to Contact KCSDV**  
 Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence  
[www.kcsdv.org](http://www.kcsdv.org)  
 785-232-9784  
[coalition@kcsdv.org](mailto:coalition@kcsdv.org)



**Contact Us**

Kristina Scott  
 KCSDV Child Welfare Project Coordinator  
 785-232-9784 ext. 336  
[kscott@kcsdv.org](mailto:kscott@kcsdv.org)

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**KCSVD Connectedness: Awareness and Educational Opportunities**

 <https://www.facebook.com/KCSDV>  
 <https://twitter.com/kcsdv>  
 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/kcsdv>  
 [www.instagram.com/kcsdv](http://www.instagram.com/kcsdv)  
 [www.youtube.com/kcsdv](http://www.youtube.com/kcsdv)  
 [coalition@kcsdv.org](mailto:coalition@kcsdv.org)







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