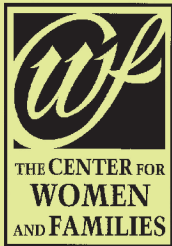


"...to develop lasting system changes to reduce the rate and impact of violence in the home among Bridgeport children ages birth to six."

Training, Education, Outreach

BSSI Lessons learned from providing four years of training and technical assistance to the Bridgeport system of care

Training



The Center for Women and Families
Bridgeport Safe Start Initiative
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phone (203) 334-6154
24 hour hotline (203) 384-9559
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Funded by a grant through the
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
U.S. Department of Justice



Past Trainings

From 2002-2006, Bridgeport Safe Start Initiative (BSSI) held 129 trainings, symposia, and workshops that attracted nearly 3,000 registrations. These sessions covered each of the four objectives outlined below:

- to provide general training to service providers working with children aged 0-6 who are exposed to violence, to educate in areas such as child development, dynamics of family violence and cultural competency;
- to share information across systems to increase collaboration among and within agencies, and increase the coordination of services;
- to provide ongoing supervision and consultation in systems (such as schools) that work closely with children age 0-6 and their families on a continual basis;
- to provide intensive, skill-based training for providers working directly with children exposed to violence in the home.

BSSI also developed a workshop, "Family Engagement in the Real World" to assist agencies in engaging clients. The curriculum for this training was driven by an assessment process, where community representatives were trained in data collection methods and conducted focus groups with consumers and agency staff to identify the barriers to seeking services. This workshop was offered to social service providers in Bridgeport.

BSSI surveyed agencies on their training needs. The Center for Women and Families (CWF) will continue to work the requested training.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM BSSI:

- Workshops and trainings not only raised awareness of the issues of children exposed to violence (CEV), but also had the unintended positive effect of increasing providers' ability to network and develop relationships.
- Agency Directors prioritize trainings which meet state and federal licensure requirements or that progress the mission of their agencies.
- Future trainings should expand outside of the traditional social service and educational organizations to engage other groups, including law enforcement, homeless service providers, medical providers, lawyers, substance abuse providers, and faith-based organizations.

Sustaining Training Efforts

Historically, BSSI has been able to provide community workshops, which were open to providers and the public, and in-service trainings, provided on-site at individual agencies, free of charge to the greater Bridgeport community through a grant from OJJDP. As planned, this funding ended in 2006 and The Center for Women and Families aspires to sustain the trainings through additional grant funding, and with the incorporation of a fee-for-service system.

The following recommendations were made to CWF:

- Expand the marketing of workshops beyond the current mailing list to continue to offer workshops to new and different types of professionals and to ensure that the provider community has not become saturated.
- Expand workshop provision beyond “101” level efforts to include the provision of multiple session workshops that build upon the introductory workshops.
- Limit the community workshops to two or three series a year. Focus on expanding in-services and charging for these to cover costs.
- Incorporate Continuing Education Credits (CECs) both for high level community trainings and in-services.

CWF will continue to provide trainings to professionals who want to enhance their skills, knowledge and response to issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Training will be offered both at CWF, open to the public and general provider community, and as in-service trainings tailored specifically to an organization’s needs and provided at their agencies.

Sample Training Topics

- Family Engagement in the Real World
- Adults Protecting Children: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
- Child Sexual Abuse & Sexually Abusive Children
- Communication Skills
- Conflict Resolution
- Dynamics of Domestic Violence
- Dynamics of Sexual Violence
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Family Violence and the Court System
- Internet Safety for Parents
- Long Term Effects of Bullying on Children
- Media Violence
- Sexual Harassment Prevention

Call to Action



If you would like more information regarding CWF’s training opportunities, please contact:

The Center for Women and Families,
Coordinator of Community Education, Training & Outreach,
(203) 334-6154. www.cwfefc.org. Training fees are variable.



The Bridgeport Safe Start Initiative (BSSI) began when a committee of Communities Against Violence In The Home (CAVITH) worked with the City of Bridgeport, the Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, and The Center for Women and Families (CWF) to obtain a 5-year, \$3.1 million grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in Spring 2000.

BSSI conducted an assessment process, which helped identify their overriding goals - to reduce both the RATE and IMPACT of exposure to violence in the home among Bridgeport children ages birth to six years.

In subsequent years, BSSI funded programs to meet identified service needs through competitive RFP/RFQ processes. Programs included Screening, Identification and Referral, Assessment, and Treatment Services; Mental Health Services; Training and Technical Assistance; a Public Information Campaign; and Policy-level Initiatives.