

Linking Adult & Child Domestic Violence Related Deaths

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on Implementing Fatality Review

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History

- A Fatality Review Team was established in Miami-Dade County in 1998 to study domestic violence related deaths.
- Miami-Dade was one of four teams selected in Florida by the Governor's Task Force to be part of an initiative to create multi-disciplinary teams with the purpose of identifying and closing system gaps that would prevent future tragedies.
- There are 16 such teams now in Florida.
- In September, 2000, the child death review process was merged into the function of the team. This is unique to Miami-Dade County.

Audiotape of 911 call

- Six-year-old female witnessing her mother and mother's boyfriend fighting.



- Any Questions?

Statistics

- In 20% of 2003 cases reviewed in Miami-Dade County, children witnessed the fatal incident, either visually or by earshot.
- Nationally, 75% of battered women say their children are physically or sexually abused.
- There is an overlap of 30% to 60% between violence against children and violence against women in the same families.
- Over 3 million children are at risk of exposure to parental violence each year.

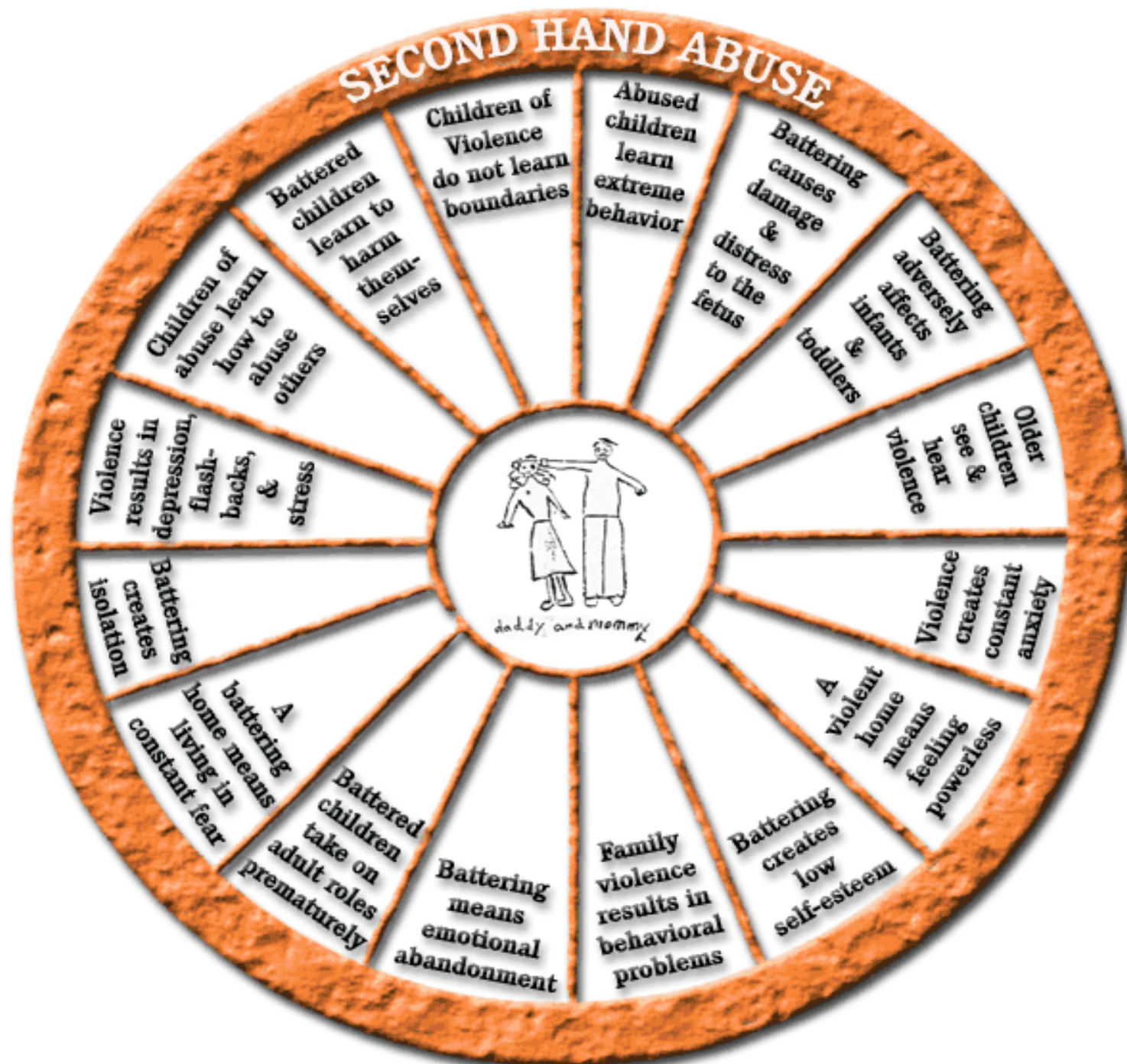
More Facts

- Domestic violence has been shown to occur disproportionately in homes with children under five.
- Children under five are at the highest risk of death due to abuse or neglect.
- A child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next.
- Children who witness domestic violence are six times more likely to commit suicide.

Critical Need to Interface Child & Adult Fatality Reviews

- **Co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence. Witnessing domestic violence is a form of child abuse. Children may also be physically hurt during a DV incident.**
- **Child and adult advocates should work together in addressing safety needs for the family as a whole.**
- **Members of DV Fatality Review Teams need to be knowledgeable of child maltreatment issues. In most domestic violence homicides children have either witnessed the incident and/or are left behind.**
- **From the child abuse and neglect standpoint, those studying child deaths need the knowledgeable of domestic violence.**
- **Findings from a team that interfaces child and adult victim issues are more effective in making recommendations for the prevention of FAMILY VIOLENCE .**

SECOND HAND ABUSE



Case Studies

- Countless cases where there was a history of domestic violence and the paramour/step-father or father is the perpetrator of the child's death, mother's death, mother and child deaths or where children witnessed the mother's murder.
- Perez Case
- Blash Case
- Rodriguez Case
- Conde Case
- Gonzalez Case (name changed)
- Landie Case (name changed)

Suggested Members

- **Law Enforcement**
 - Homicide Unit
 - Domestic Violence Unit
 - Child Exploitation Unit
 - Victim/Witness Advocates
- **State Attorney/District Attorney**
(same divisions as above)
- **Court Personnel**
- **Child Protection Teams**
- **Child Protective Services**

Suggested Members Continued

- School System
- Medical Examiner's Office
- Health Department
- Medical (adult and pediatric)
- Mental Health
- DV Shelter Staff
- Batterer Intervention Programs
- Community Corrections/Probation