

Kern County Family Justice Center

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The Great Need for Domestic Violence Services

- ∞ 1 in 4 women are exposed to domestic violence in their lifetime.
- ∞ Domestic violence exposure in children lead to a lack of concentration and increased non-verbal cues.
- ∞ Domestic violence and child maltreatment occur in up to 60% of families where either parent is present.
- ∞ Requests for service are increasing and resources are decreasing.
- ∞ A Family Justice Center in Kern County would assist in providing one location where all key agencies would be available to assist in combating domestic violence.

Social Work Relevance

- ∞ Domestic violence is an area that affects everyone on various levels regardless of their economic status or ethnic background.
- ∞ An average of over half the women seen in mental health settings have been abused by an intimate partner during some time in their lives.
- ∞ Social workers need to remain educated on social problems such as domestic violence in order to meet the needs of those individuals and families seeking professional support.
- ∞ Such research may provide social workers with pertinent information needed to provide efficient and effective supportive services to maintain family unity.
- ∞ “Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living. Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients.”

Cross-cultural Relevance

- ∞ Domestic violence is not bound by race, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation or religious preferences.
- ∞ Domestic violence is a global problem that requires preventative action to be undertaken at a global level as this is an epidemic that knows no boundaries.
- ∞ Unmet mental health needs of domestic violence victims and their children is a growing problem.
- ∞ Violence against women is a universal phenomenon that persists in all countries of the world, and the perpetrators of the violence are often well known to their victims.

Methods

- ∞ The target populations for this proposed program are families who have been victimized by sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence or stalking and are seeking reliefs in legal matters arising from the abuse.
- ∞ In researching for possible funders, the writer utilized many different search engines and also visited local libraries.
- ∞ The Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) Grant Program was selected to fund the Family Justice Center of Kern County.
- ∞ The LAV is designed to increase civil and criminal legal assistance programs for both adult and youth victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking who are seeking relief in legal matters associated with the abuse or violence

Methods

- ✎ In assessing the need for this service, the writer attended Domestic Violence Awareness Committee (DVAC) meetings and spoke with local agencies servicing victims of domestic violence.
- ✎ The projected budget range was \$400,000.00. An In-Kind Match would be used to offset salary costs.
- ✎ Funding would cover the cost of training and resource materials, the rental of a large facility, utilities, office supplies, victim assistance hygiene kits, and travel expenses for training purposes.

Grant Proposal

- ∞ The purpose of this grant is to provide one location where all domestic violence services can be located and obtained.

- ∞ The Family Justice Center will have 3 main goals:
 - 1) Bring all related services together to create a single location where victims can be able to obtain services needed to combat domestic violence
 - 2) Assist and support families by answering all questions.
 - 3) Provide education and outreach to help bring awareness to the growing occurrences of domestic violence in Kern County.

Grant Proposal

- ∞ In order to sustain the continuation of this program once the funding from the LAV Grant Program has been depleted, each community partner agency will be asked to absorb a portion of the costs involved.
- ∞ Continued fundraising efforts will be developed through private donations and community activities.
- ∞ The objective of the program is to educate victims of domestic violence on the warning signs and assist them in obtaining supportive services.
- ∞ The program will be evaluated by those seeking services.

Lessons Learned Implications for Social Work

- ✎ Grant writing is a very tedious yet important aspect to every agency willing to provide needed services to individuals in their communities.
- ✎ The implications for social workers if given the funding for this program would be the creation of more intensive services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
- ✎ Social workers assigned to the Family Justice Center will be able to help people in need, challenge social injustice, help victims discover their self-worth and assist in teaching victims the importance of healthy human relationships.

References

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