**Pre-Service Module: Co-Occurring Considerations**

**Section 2: Domestic Violence**

**Section Learning Objectives**

By the end of Section 2: Domestic Violence, child welfare professionals will be able to:

* Define domestic violence
* Become familiar with the warning signs of domestic violence
* Recognize the risks of victim blaming and separation violence
* Identify populations at high risk for domestic violence
* Understand the impact of domestic violence on children and youth
* Recognize the importance of collaboration with a system of care

**Section Themes and Key Points**

Below is a summary of the themes and key points covered in this section. This summary is intended to remind learners of the key learning points addressed and assist supervisors / coaches in understanding what was covered in order for them to guide and support the application of learning for new child welfare professionals related to this section.

1. This section defines and describes domestic violence by indicating that domestic violence is about power, domination, and control. It is an ongoing pattern of related behaviors that one intimate partner in a relationship exerts over another as a means of control. It typically involves an unequal power dynamic in which one partner tries to assert control over the other in a variety of ways.

Those who abuse come from every race, background, socio-economic status, age, and profession in society. Victims are often isolated from outside sources of support including family, friends, and work.

Domestic violence is not caused by anger, short tempers, violent tendencies, mental health issues, alcohol, or other drugs. Rather, it happens when an individual chooses manipulative, threatening or physically violent behavior to gain power and control over another individual.

1. This section identifies that domestic violence affects all areas of the population, regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, or economic status. It includes all socio-economic backgrounds and educational levels.

This pattern of behavior can occur in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to partners who are married, living together, or dating.

While domestic violence affects all areas of the population, we do know that certain

populations are at higher risk of victimization. These include LGBTQIA2S+, African Americans and Native Americans.

1. This section outlines the warning signs of a potentially violent relationship:

* Verbal Cruelty
* Physical and Emotional Control
* Lack of Respect
* Fear and Anxiety
* Visible Indicators
* Isolation

1. This section addresses the importance of child welfare collaborating with domestic violence services to protect the well-being of children, youth, and families.

A helpful resource is “The Domestic Violence handbook”, created by child welfare and domestic violence professionals, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and End Abuse to provide useful information to child welfare professionals for cases in which domestic violence coexists with child maltreatment.

Every county and tribe in Wisconsin have a program to serve victims of domestic violence and their children. Local domestic violence victim service providers are the critical resource in every community's response to domestic abuse.

**On-the-Job Application Activities**

Listed in this section are optional transfer of training activities to support the learner in applying the knowledge acquired during the Co-Occurring Considerations: Domestic Violence Pre-Service Module to their CPS roles and responsibilities.

These two activities are optional and are provided only to aid the child welfare professional and supervisor/coach in supporting transfer of learning from pre-service to the agency. The child welfare professional, with input from their supervisor/coach, may choose to complete all, some, or none of these activities or substitute in other activities.

**Option 1: Local Domestic Violence Victim Service Provider Activity**

Every county and tribe in Wisconsin have a program to serve victims of domestic violence and their children.

* Identify local domestic violence victim service providers in your county.
* Consider the following questions:
  + How would provide information to victims about the program(s) in your county?
  + How can you develop relationships with these service providers?
* Discuss your responses with your supervisor or coach.

**Option 2: CPS Access and Initial Assessment Standards Activity**

* Pull out your Access and Initial Assessment Standards.
* Go to “Appendix 3: Domestic Abuse”.
* If you need to access a copy of the Access and Initial Assessment Standards, you can find them on the DCF website page: <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cwportal/policy> in the “Standards” section. If you need help finding them, ask your supervisor/coach for assistance.
* Review the appendix and answer the following questions:

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| **What are the factors to consider in determining your response in domestic abuse cases?** |
| **What did you learn that will help you be more successful in your interventions with a victim of domestic abuse?** |

* Discuss these factors and potential interventions with your supervisor or coach.