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AGENDA REPORT

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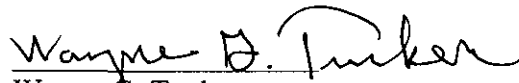
2005 MAY 11 PM 12:33

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Oakland Police Department
DATE: May 24, 2005

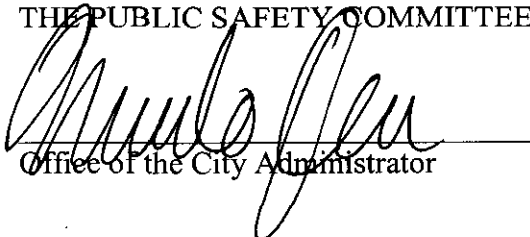
RE: Report on Oakland Police Department Trainings On How to Communicate with Young Children Exposed to Violence

The attached report and supplemental materials are submitted on behalf of the Police Department's partners at the East Bay Community Foundation Safe Passages program. Ms. Josefina Alvarado-Mena, Executive Director, Safe Passages, will attend the May 24th Public Safety Committee meeting to present the details of the report.

Respectfully submitted,


Wayne G. Tucker
Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING TO
THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

Item _____
Public Safety Committee
May 24, 2005



safe passages

250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 6306 Oakland, CA 94612
510.238.6368 510.238.2062
www.safe passages.org

TO: Public Safety Committee
FROM: Safe Passages
DATE: May 24, 2005

RE: Report on Oakland Police Department trainings on how to communicate with young children exposed to violence.

Dave Kears,
Director, Alameda
County Health Care
Services Agency

Jane Brunner
Oakland City Council

Keith Carson
Alameda County
Board of Supervisors

Chet Hewitt
Director, Alameda
County Social Services
Agency

Michael Howe
President, East Bay
Community Foundation

Harold Mayberry
Pastor, First African
Methodist Episcopal Church

Nate Miley
Alameda County
Board of Supervisors

Susan Muranishi
Alameda County Administrator

Jean Quan
Oakland City Council

Dan Siegel
Oakland Unified School
District Advisory Board

Donald Bleivins
Alameda County
Probation Chief

Cheryl A.P. Thompson
Assistant City Manager
City of Oakland

Josefina Alvarado-Mena
Executive Director
Safe Passages

SUMMARY

This is an informational report regarding the implementation of a series of Oakland Police Department trainings on the impact of exposure to violence on young children and dissemination of officer guidelines for communicating with young children at the scene of violence. The trainings represent a unique collaboration between mental health clinicians and police department personnel to better serve young children exposed to violence and their families. Trainings are coordinated by Safe Passages and facilitated by a collaborative of early childhood clinicians.

FISCAL IMPACT

Training facilitation and related materials are being provided free of charge to Oakland Police Department and the City of Oakland, at a value of \$5,000 for the 2005 calendar year (\$3,000 for facilitation expenses and \$2,000 for materials, including parent resource cards and officer pocket cards in four languages). The project is currently funded by Safe Passages.

BACKGROUND

Each year in the United States, an estimated 3 to 10 million children are exposed to violence within their homes. The California Department of Justice reports that between 2001 and 2003, domestic violence-related calls for assistance to the Oakland Police Department increased by nearly 21%. An Oakland Police Department survey conducted in 2000 found that 85% of the people who had contacted police for a domestic-related incident had children, and of those, an estimated 63% had children under the age of five in the home.

Item _____
Public Safety Committee
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A growing body of research has connected exposure to violence with severe consequences to the development of young children. Exposure to violence is significantly associated with depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and psychopathology. Habitual exposure to violence has actually been shown to alter the developing brain in irreversible ways, predisposing children to violent and impulsive behavior later in life. Not just family violence, but also community violence, places children at greater risk for becoming violent themselves.

While the effects of early exposure to violence can be devastating to a child's developmental trajectory, the early years also present a window of opportunity for intervention since behavior patterns have not yet become entrenched. But while the need may be high, there are considerable obstacles to identification. For one, infants and young children have not yet developed language and have limited ways to express their distress to adults. Secondly, because these children tend to be confined to the domestic sphere, they often go undetected by public systems until the conditions they have been exposed to throughout childhood manifest themselves in harmful behaviors later in life.

The prevalence of exposure to violence in the 0-5 population, combined with the barriers to accessing them, attests to the urgency of raising awareness within communities and with the professionals who make frequent contact with them. There is a national trend in partnering with police officers as a means to identify and support young children exposed to violence because police have access and wield significant influence as first responders during an emotionally charged crisis situation. As such, there is a strong need for police officer education and training from experts in the field.

At a 2003 Alameda County Early Childhood Mental Health Symposium, the Deputy Chief of the Oakland Police Department Bureau of Investigations called on the clinicians present to work with OPD in building officer knowledge of child development and the effects of exposure to violence, particularly with regard to the 0-5 age group. He recommended delivering a brief training on this topic during officer line-ups.

A work group comprised of representatives from Safe Passages, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, Alameda County Public Health Department, Alameda County District Attorney's Office, The Link to Children, and Oakland Police Department met monthly for over a year to follow up on this request. A literature review of national best practices was conducted. This review, along with a series of internal discussions, resulted in the creation of 1) a list of concrete guidelines for officers to use when interacting with children, 2) a 20-minute line-up training curriculum, and 3) a one-hour Continuing Professional Training ("CPT," formerly the "Advanced Officers School") training for a broad range of officers including Patrol, Investigations, Rangers, Airport, and School Officers.

Contacts with the Oakland Police Department related to the line-up training opened up other training opportunities with OPD. The collaborative process has fostered alliances

among clinicians and law enforcement professionals, enabling the group to explore new ways to work together to better support infants and children exposed to violence.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To date the project has included the implementation of two distinct sets of trainings: a 20-minute line-up training targeting approximately 60 street officers who are assigned to the Night Watch, and a more detailed 60-minute CPT training targeting approximately 510 officers, including all Patrol, Investigative, Airport, and School Officers. CPT is comprised of 40 hours of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)-certified trainings, 30 hours of which are mandated by state law, received over a 12-month period. Groups of 10-15 officers receive 40 hours of training weekly.

Both sets of trainings focus on the role of police as first responders, early childhood development concepts, the impact of exposure to violence on physical and behavioral development, including future involvement with violence and crime, and guidelines for how to interact with young children who have witnessed violence to minimize their trauma and improve community perception of officers.

In addition to sensitizing police to issues with young children, trainings aim to increase identification of children exposed to violence through the dissemination of 1) pocket cards to officers, including 10 concrete guidelines and phone numbers for families to call for services, and 2) parent resource cards to officers, which are a tool for officers to hand out to families with children in the home. The cards list two phone numbers for parents to call: the Parental Stress Service family hotline for mental health support and the Family Violence Law Center for legal guidance. Parent resource cards are available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Cantonese.

The line-up training was piloted by professionals from the District Attorney's Office and The Link to Children, while the CPT series is currently being facilitated by four clinicians from Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland and Alameda County Public Health Department, all of whom possess expertise in the early childhood mental health field. Trainings are currently coordinated and funded by Safe Passages.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The 20-minute line-up was piloted in late January and early February 2005, reaching about 90% of the 60 officers targeted. The one-hour CPT trainings began in late February 2005. As of the date that this report was submitted, approximately 90 officers have been served through CPT (18% of the officers to be reached by December 2005). Of the 90 officers reached, about 30 officers also received the shorter line-up training.

To avoid duplication, the 20-minute training was discontinued after the pilot in favor of the one-hour CPT training, which will reach all officers by December 2005. Safe Passages and partners are also working with the Special Victims Unit to coordinate a

special training for roughly 15 investigative officers who work on cases involving child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault and exploitation.

Approximately 110 officer pocket cards and 3,000 parent resource cards have been distributed to police officers, who have been instructed to pass cards on to families with young children. As mentioned earlier in this report, the cards list: 1) a phone number for parents to call for counseling and mental health support, and 2) a phone number to call for legal counseling. Safe Passages has provided an additional 4,000 cards to stock the Patrol Room at OPD so that officers can replenish their supply as needed. It is anticipated that the dissemination of cards to families will result in an additional 200 domestic-violence related calls to the mental health hotline listed on the card, which it is estimated would reach an additional 150 families and result in 110 additional children referred for services.

Trainings are being evaluated by both OPD through a standardized evaluation form and the Safe Passages/clinician collaborative through pre/post surveys measuring officer attitudes and knowledge of children exposed to violence. Evaluations show that trainings have received an above average rating and are resulting in significant shifts in officer knowledge of child development concepts, comfort level in engaging young children, and propensity to support young children (i.e. by offering resources to families).

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic – No economic opportunities have been identified in this report.

Environmental – No environmental opportunities have been identified in this report.

Social Equity – Although crime data indicate that families at lower socio-economic levels are more likely to be exposed to domestic/community violence, the training described in this presentation is applicable to all victims regardless of socio-economic status. Trainers encourage officers to be sensitive to socio-economic conditions they may encounter upon responding to a domestic or community violence incident.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

There are no disability or senior citizen access issues related to this project.

RECOMMENDATION

Safe Passages recommends that the Committee accept this informational report.

Submitted by:



Josefina Alvarado-Mena
Executive Director
Safe Passages

Prepared by:
Talia Kirschner
Safe Passages

Attachments:

- Continuing Professional Training Presentation
- Police officer pocket card
- Parent resource card

Infants and children exposed to violence: How police officers can make a difference

Developed in collaboration with Safe Passages, Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland, CALICO, the District Attorney's Office, Oakland Police Department, The Link to Children, and Alameda County Public Health Department

Purpose of the training

- **Increase awareness** of the impact of violence on young children and their development
- **Appreciate the power of your role** as first responders to affect the child's experience
- **Provide guidelines** about how to support babies and toddlers exposed to violence

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- **Stairs Video**
 - What do you notice about the child's reaction?

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM – FAMILY AND COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

- In the U.S., between 3.3 and 10 million children witness domestic violence each year (Carlson 1994 & Strauss 1992)
- Domestic violence related calls to OPD increased by 28% between 2001 and 2002, from 2,043 calls to 2,608 calls (California Dept. of Justice)
- According to a 2000 OPD telephone survey, 85% of people who contacted police for a domestic-related incident had children; 63% of whom had children 0-5 in the home (Oakland Police Department)

Police and children

- Police are the professionals who most frequently come into contact with the most at-risk children.
- Police are the first responders at a scene.
- Modeling
- First impressions matter
- Generational impact

UNDERSTANDING CHILD DEVELOPMENT – KEY CONCEPTS

- Relationships as building blocks of development (infancy)
- Egocentrism (toddlerhood)
- Cause and effect (preschool)

UNDERSTANDING CHILD DEVELOPMENT – KEY CONCEPTS

- External regulation
- "Still face" video

UNDERSTANDING CHILD DEVELOPMENT – BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

The first years of life are an extremely active period of brain development

- Pruning
- Brain Plasticity

IMPACT OF EARLY EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

- Stress and violence in the environment (including the relationship) can affect:
 - Brain development and the stress response system
 - Behavior and mental health

IMPACT OF EARLY EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

- The "Lisa" 911 call (San Diego Police Department)

DISCUSSION

- Positive/negative experiences with kids in the line of duty

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Find out whether there is a baby/child in the home and if so, be aware that (s)he will be watching and listening to you.
- **DON'T:** Assume a baby/child did not see, hear, and understand the violence.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Give comfort to babies/children present in the home once the situation is stabilized.
- **DON'T:** Overlook a baby/child just because (s)he is silent or appears unharmed. Even a silent baby has heard the violence and needs comfort.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Interview the toddler/child away from the scene. If a toddler/child has witnessed severe violence or disclosed abuse, bring them to CALICO, our child interview center.
- **DON'T:** Interview the parent and child in front of one another, or use the toddler/child as a translator unless it is absolutely necessary.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Lower yourself to the toddler/child's level and make eye contact when addressing them.
- **DON'T:** Forget how big you appear to a toddler/child and that their eyes are at gun level.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Introduce yourself and directly address the toddler/child in a calm and quiet manner.
- **DON'T:** Tell the toddler/child how or what they should feel.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Explain what is happening and is going to happen in the most simple and truthful way possible.
- **DON'T:** Give false reassurances or make promises you can't keep. It is okay to admit uncertainty and/or to let the toddler/child know you are sorry for what has happened.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Let the baby/child take a security item with them (such as a toy or a blanket) if removal is necessary. Ask someone what the child might need.
- **DON'T:** Let the toddler/child feel that she is responsible for removal. Instead, be sure to tell the child that what happened isn't their fault.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Give the parent or guardian numbers to call. Tell the parent that you are concerned about the child witnessing violence and encourage him/her to call the phone numbers when ready.
- **DON'T:** Assume that parents are aware of the effects of violence on babies/children, or know who to call for services.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** List all babies/children as witnesses on the police report, and include their ages.
- **DON'T:** Forget to list a witness on the report just because (s)he is a baby or toddler.

GUIDELINES

- **DO:** Follow up with the family. Stop by the next day and ask how they're doing.
- **DON'T:** Underestimate the impact your small actions have on babies and children.

GUIDELINES

- New Haven Police Department video

FINAL NOTES

- All violence – whether in the community or at home – affects our youngest children.
- Your role as first responder can be pivotal in shaping the child's experience. Early intervention is cost effective and will make a difference.
- Document the presence of young children in the home and provide resources to families if appropriate.

Police Officer Pocket Card

Together we can reduce the impact of violence on our youngest children



Give parents these numbers and encourage them to call when ready. Tell them to call back or leave a message if they receive voicemail – someone will get back to them within 24 hours.

For emotional support and counseling for both the parent and the baby/child:

Parental Stress Service, Inc.
24-hour family hotline
1-800-829-3777 or (510) 893-5444

For safety planning and legal issues:

The Family Violence Law Center
24-hour crisis line
(510) 208-0255



Officer guidelines for when there are babies/children at a scene:

1. Be aware that babies/children will be watching and listening to you.
2. Give comfort to babies/children once the situation is stabilized, even if they are silent or do not appear harmed.
3. Interview toddlers/children away from the scene and away from the parent. If they have witnessed severe violence, bring them to CALICO, our child interview center.
4. Lower yourself to a toddler/child's level and make eye contact when introducing yourself. Remember that your gun may be at a child's eye level.
5. Explain what is happening and is going to happen in the most simple and truthful way possible.
6. Admit uncertainty and let toddlers/children know you're sorry for what's happened. Tell them what happened is not their fault.
7. Let babies/children take a security item with them (such as a blanket) if removal is necessary.
8. Tell parents that you're concerned about their babies/children witnessing violence and encourage parents to call the phone numbers on back when ready.
9. List all babies/children as witnesses in the police report.
10. Stop by the next day to follow up with the family.

Parent Resource Cards

Our youngest children are silent victims.

Together we can reduce the impact of violence on our youngest children



Nuestros hijos más pequeños son víctimas que no vemos o escuchamos.

Juntos podemos reducir el impacto de la violencia en nuestros hijos.



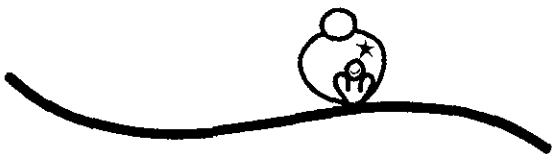
Những đứa con nhỏ tuổi nhất của chúng ta là các nạn nhân thầm lặng.

Cùng nhau chúng ta có thể làm giảm ấn tượng về bạo động cho các con nhỏ của chúng ta.



最年幼的孩子是沉默的受害者。

同心協力，我們將能減少年幼孩子所受到的暴力衝擊。



For emotional support and counseling:
Parental Stress Service, Inc. 24-hour family hotline
1-800-829-3777 or (510) 893-5444

Parental Stress Service will connect you and your baby/child to free or low support services that will help him/her cope with the violence (s)he witnessed. If you receive voicemail, call back soon or leave a message – someone will get back to you within 24 hours.

For free safety planning and legal issues:
The Family Violence Law Center 24-hour crisis line
(510) 208-0255

Para apoyo y consejería gratis o a bajo costo:
Servicios Parental Stress, Inc.
Teléfono de 24-horas para la familia
1-800-829-3777 or (510) 893-5444

Los Servicios de Parental Stress la pondrán en contacto con un consejero para usted y su bebé/ niño (a) y les ayudará a lidiar con la violencia que su hijo(a) haya visto. Si le contesta una máquina, deje un mensaje – alguien la llamara en menos de 24 horas.

Para mejorar su seguridad y para asuntos legales gratis:
El Centro Legal de Violencia Familiar
Línea de crisis de 24-horas
(510) 208-0255

Để được hỗ trợ và cố vấn về xúc cảm:
Đường dây khẩn gia đình 24 giờ của Parental Stress Service, Inc.
1-800-829-3777 hoặc (510) 893-5444

Parental Stress Service sẽ nối quý vị và con em quý vị tới các dịch vụ hỗ trợ miễn phí hoặc giá hạ để giúp cho em đương đầu với (những) sự bạo động mà em chứng kiến. Nếu quý vị nghe thấy có tiếng đầu máy (voicemail), hãy gọi lại sau đó hoặc để lại một tin nhắn – sẽ có người gọi lại cho quý vị trong vòng 24 giờ.

Để được hoạch định miễn phí về sự an toàn và về các vấn đề pháp lý:
Đường dây khủng hoảng 24 giờ của Trung Tâm về Luật Bạo Động Trong Gia Đình
(510) 208-0255

情緒支援和輔導：
家長壓力服務公司 24 小時家庭專線
1-800-829-3777 或 (510) 893-5444
家長壓力服務公司 (Parental Stress Service) 會將您和您的嬰幼兒介紹給免費或低價的支援服務，協助孩子應付曾經目睹的暴力行爲。如果您聽到電話錄音，請稍後再撥或留言，工作人員將在 24 小時內和您聯繫。

免費的安全規劃和法律事宜請電：
家庭暴力法律中心 24 小時危機專線
(510) 208-0255