

## **Children Who Witness Violence: A Rapid Response to Police Calls**

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This workshop will exam the successful partnership between a community mental health agency, Mental Health Services and several local police departments in addressing the issue of children witnessing domestic violence. Topics will consist of the development, implementation, and continued growth of the Children Who Witness Violence Program in Cleveland Ohio. All program services will be described, from the initial referral made by the police thru our final linkage visit . Barriers and strategies to forge collaborative relationships between mental health workers and police will also be discussed. An overview of the effects of violence on children as well as the role of children as protectors of victims will also be included.

As part of the workshop, a training DVD developed by the National Trauma Stress Network will be shown, with ample opportunity for discussion after the viewing. The DVD features the Cleveland Police Department responding to an incident of domestic violence with two young children present. We will discuss the officers' involvement in the development of the training film, their use of the film and the department's active participation in the program. We will also discuss other on going training activities, which occur at roll call.

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