

# Strengthening the Safety Net for Survivors through Collaboration

*Breakout Session #2: Promoting disclosure and safety for victims  
accessing child support*

## The View from Washington State

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# How We Got Here

- Not a lot of IV-D/IV-A interaction on DV
  - Confusion over Good Cause Level A or Level B
  - Separate IV-D work with statewide coalition
  - Separate IV-A work with statewide coalition
  - When all three got together → → → **Success!**
- Training curriculum, forms, procedures
- Latest concept: **Don't ask, just tell**

# The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Support Cases

*“But Nancy, I’m not a social worker!”*

- Initial resistance from staff
  - Some fear of the unknown
  - Desire to protect those who receive IV-D services
- Training development
  - Basic info on DV concepts and stereotype-busting
  - Emphasis on what case actions to take once you know DV is an issue

# The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Support Cases

## Implementation of Affordable Care Act

- Washington State created its own Health Benefit Exchange (the Healthplanfinder)
- PROBLEM: no good cause process!
- RESULT: until it's fixed, we **will not** take action on the Medicaid assignment because we can't do it safely

# The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Support Cases

*Training for IV-D Staff and for DV Advocates  
Developed by DCS in conjunction with WSCADV*

## **DCS staff:**

- Mandatory at the beginning with required refreshers every 4 years
- OLT with Q&A webinars twice a year

## **DV Advocates:**

- Spring webinar
- Live session at WSCADV Annual Conference

## The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Support Cases

- TANF applicants can make an informed choice
  - No case at all (Good Cause Level A)
  - Case w/o cooperation (Good Cause Level B)
  - Case w/o any Good Cause
- TANF applicants can participate in the Good Cause Decision
- IV-A Good Cause can carry over to IV-E cases

# The Impact of Domestic Violence on Child Support Cases

- If Good Cause Level A is granted:
  - IV-D case is closed
  - This **does not** relieve the noncustodial parent support obligation
  - IV-D case is not reopened unless and until an affirmative act by the custodial parent:
    - Withdrawal of Good Cause
    - Submission of Nonassistance Application
- If Good Cause Level B is granted:
  - IV-D case open
  - CP can say “I’m not helping”
  - No paternity establishment
- Nonassistance cases do not have a good cause process
  - Only choice is open/close
  - Policy/procedure when former TANF case is closed

# Questions?

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