

No, It's Not Just a Bruise: Physicians Examine Abuse

Physician Seminars Domestic Violence, Child Abuse and Elder Abuse

SUMMARY

From 1996 through 1998, the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, Princeton Junction, N.J., gave a series of seminars on domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse for community-based physicians throughout New Jersey.

Violence and abuse among people in intimate social relationships, such as marriage and family, are now recognized as serious health problems in the United States. Although the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship places physicians in an advantageous position to intervene in cases of abuse, most physicians are not trained sufficiently to recognize its clinical symptoms.

As the academic affiliate of the Medical Society of New Jersey and an accredited provider of continuing medical education, the Academy of Medicine of New Jersey developed an initiative to better acquaint New Jersey physicians with the issues and different forms of abuse and to help them identify the clinical clues.

Physician faculty used a curriculum and slides on domestic abuse designed by Physicians for a Violence-Free Society (PVFS)¹. Faculty developed and revised curricula for two other seminar programs-one on child abuse and the other on elder abuse.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation² and the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect³ provided supplemental materials on legal and community resources. Personnel from county domestic violence shelters, Child Protective Services, and Adult Protective Services distributed additional literature to participants.

¹ **Physicians for a Violence-Free Society (PVFS):** an organization devoted to promoting violence prevention by developing leadership and advocacy in the health care community.

² **The New Jersey State Bar Foundation:** an organization associated with the New Jersey State Bar that provides a wide variety of free law-related education services to the public.

³ **The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect:** an inter-agency committee created by the state to coordinate efforts addressing the problem of child abuse and neglect.

Key Results

• Staff delivered some 45 seminars were delivered to requesting institutions throughout the state—16 on domestic violence, 9 on child abuse, and 20 on elder abuse.

Seminars targeted physicians in settings or specialties most likely to see victims of abuse, such as emergency medicine, family practice, general medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology.

Of the 1,334 health care professionals who attended the seminars, approximately 552 attended those on domestic violence, 178 on child abuse, and 603 on elder abuse.

Almost all of those who evaluated the seminars reported that they would be able to recognize the clinical clues associated with the type of abuse presented in the seminar they attended.

Afterward

The academy continues to offer seminars on each topic. These are publicized in their annual continuing education calendar, and are available for a fee of \$600 each to requesting organizations. In addition, the academy continues to present seminars to annual meetings of medical professional societies and medical consortiums.

Funding

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provided two grants totaling \$59,641 to support the project between September 1996 and January 2000.

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APPENDIX

Glossary

Physicians for a Violence-Free Society (PVFS): an organization devoted to promoting violence prevention by developing leadership and advocacy in the health care community.

The New Jersey State Bar Foundation: an organization associated with the New Jersey State Bar that provides a wide variety of free law-related education services to the public.

The New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect: an inter-agency committee created by the state to coordinate efforts addressing the problem of child abuse and neglect.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Current as of date of the report; as provided by the grantee organization; not verified by RWJF; items not available from RWJF.)

Books and Reports

Cavalieri T et al. *Elder Mistreatment: Identification, Assessment and Intervention* (reproduction of seminar slides and text.) Princeton Junction, NJ: Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, 1997. More than 555 copies distributed through December 1998.

Finkel MA et al. *Child Abuse and Neglect, a Physician's Introduction* (reproduction of seminar slides and text) Princeton Junction, NJ: Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, 1997. More than 154 copies distributed through October 1998.

Physicians for a Violence-Free Society. *Domestic Violence Issues for Physicians and Allied Health Care Providers* (reproduction of seminar slides and text). Princeton Junction, NJ: Academy of Medicine of New Jersey, 1997. More than 927 copies distributed through December 1998.

Sponsored Workshops

"Domestic Violence Issues for Physicians" was presented:

- September 25, 1996, New Jersey Department of Health, Trenton, NJ. Attended by 9 physicians and medical professionals.
- November 14, 1996, Woodbridge Development Center, Woodbridge, NJ. Attended by 15 physicians and medical professionals.
- November 14, 1996, Shore Memorial Hospital, Somers Point, NJ. Attended by 17 physicians and medical professionals.
- November 15, 1996, Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital, Marlboro, NJ. Attended by 37 physicians and medical professionals.
- November 18, 1996, Columbus Hospital, Newark, NJ. Attended by 54 physicians and medical professionals.
- December 4, 1996, St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, NJ. Attended by 21 physicians and medical professionals.
- January 8, 1997, Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth, NJ. Attended by 14 physicians and medical professionals.
- January 15, 1997, Union Hospital, Union, NJ. Attended by 15 physicians and medical professionals.

- February 5, 1997, Rahway Hospital, Rahway, NJ. Attended by 54 physicians and medical professionals.
- March 5, 1997, Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Lyons, NJ. Attended by 28 physicians and medical professionals.
- March 14, 1997, South Jersey Hospital, Bridgeton, NJ. Attended by 20 physicians and medical professionals.
- April 2, 1997, St. James Hospital, Newark, NJ. Attended by 49 physicians and medical professionals.
- April 30, 1997, Medical Society of New Jersey Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ. Attended by 48 physicians and medical professionals.
- May 21, 1997, Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville, NJ. Attended by 39 physicians and medical professionals.
- May 29, 1997, New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, Atlantic City, NJ.
 Attended by 82 physicians and health care professionals.
- May 30, 1997, Chilton Memorial Hospital, Pompton Plains, NJ. Attended by 27 physicians and medical professionals.
- September 16, 1997, South Jersey Hospital, Elmer, NJ. Attended by 17 physicians and health care professionals.
- September 19, 1997, New Jersey Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, PNC Arts Center, Holmdel, NJ. Attended by 75 physicians and health care professionals.
- October 4, 1997, New Jersey Orthopedic Society, 23rd Annual Meeting, Somerset,
 NJ. Attended by 91 physicians and health care professionals.
- October 30, 1997, St. Joseph's Hospital, Peterson, NJ. Attended by 17 physicians and health care professionals.
- November 4, 1997, Underwood Memorial Hospital, Woodbury, NJ. Attended by 22 physicians and health care professionals.
- March 4, 1998, Bergen Pines Memorial Hospital, Paramus, NJ. Attended by 44 physicians and health care professionals.
- March 19, 1998, Memorial Hospital of Salem, Salem, NJ. Attended by 45 physicians and health care professionals.
- June 9, 1998, The Hospital Center at Orange, Orange, NJ. Attended by 33 physicians and health care professionals.
- September 15, 1998, St. Michael's Medical Center, Newark, NJ.

- November 16, 1998, New Lisbon Developmental Center, Ocean County, New Lisbon, NJ. Attended by 14 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 2, 1998, St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, NJ. Attended by 17 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 3, 1998, JFK Medical Center, Edison, NJ. Attended by 23 physicians and health care professionals.

"Child Abuse/Neglect: Intervention and Treatment Issues" was presented:

- October 24, 1997, Newcomb Medical Center, Vineland, NJ. Attended by 30 physicians and health care professionals.
- November 24, 1997, Union Hospital, Union, NJ. Attended by 24 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 10, 1997, Rahway Hospital, Rahway, NJ. Attended by 20 physicians and health care professionals.
- February 18, 1998, Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg, NJ. Attended by 14 physicians and health care professionals.
- March 31, 1998, Regional Perinatal Consortium of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Attended by 4 physicians and health care professionals.
- May 12, 1998, JFK Medical Center, Edison, NJ. Attended by 14 physicians and health care professionals.
- May 26, 1998, South Jersey Hospital, Elmer, NJ. Attended by 11 physicians and health care professionals.
- October 30, 1998, South Jersey Hospital, Bridgeton, NJ. Attended by 37 physicians and health care professionals.

"Elder Mistreatment: Identification, Assessment and Intervention" was presented:

- November 5, 1997, Clara Maass Medical Center, Belleville, NJ. Attended by 32 physicians and health care professionals.
- November 11, 1997, Shore Memorial Hospital, Somers Point, NJ. Attended by 31 physicians and health care professionals.
- November 19, 1997, Warren Hospital, Phillipsburg, NJ. Attended by 20 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 2, 1997, Underwood Memorial Hospital, Woodbury, NJ. Attended by 20 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 3, 1997, Union Hospital, Union, NJ. Attended by physicians and health care professionals.

- December 4, 1997, Veteran's Administration Health Care System, Lyons Campus, Lyons, NJ. Attended by 24 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 11, 1997, Community Medical Center, Toms River, NJ. Attended by 68 physicians and health care professionals.
- January 9, 1998, South Jersey Hospital, Bridgeton, NJ. Attended by 19 physicians and health care professionals.
- January 19, 1998, Columbus Hospital, Newark, NJ. Attended by 40 physicians and health care professionals.
- January 28, 1998, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Hamilton, NJ. Attended by 24 physicians and health care professionals.
- February 11, 1998, St. James Hospital, Newark, NJ. Attended by 36 physicians and health care professionals.
- February 18, 1998, Bergen Pines County Hospital, Paramus, NJ. Attended by 46 physicians and health care professionals.
- April 17, 1998, Hampton Behavioral Health Center, Mount Holly, NJ. Attended by 21 physicians and health care professionals.
- April 28, 1998, The Hospital Center at Orange, Orange, NJ. Attended by 28 physicians and health care professionals.
- April 29, 1998, Medical Society of New Jersey Annual Meeting, Atlantic City, NJ.
 Attended by 40 physicians and health care professionals.
- September 28, 1998, Vineland Developmental Center, Vineland, NJ. Attended by 19 physicians and health care professionals.
- November 3, 1998, South Jersey Hospital, Elmer, NJ. Attended by 14 physicians and health care professionals.
- December 15, 1998, Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, NJ. Attended by 53 physicians and health care professionals.