

National Health Initiative and Standards Campaign on Domestic Violence

In October 1997, Governor Shaheen announced New Hampshire's commitment to a major initiative designed to improve the way our health care system responds to domestic violence. New Hampshire was one of only ten states in the nation chosen by the Family Violence Prevention Fund (FVPF) to participate in their National Health Initiative. This provided an opportunity for the creation of an education and training program unique to New Hampshire.

The goal of the New Hampshire Initiative on Domestic Violence was to train health care professionals to recognize and appropriately respond to patients experiencing domestic violence. Teams of medical professionals from 25 hospitals across the state participated in intensive two-day training seminars to receive the clinical skills and planning time necessary to develop and implement programs that will improve their facilities' response to battered patients. In addition, the New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, members of the bi-state primary care association, and many individual providers have received training.

Recently the Coalition and the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence reconvened a Healthcare Committee which is now coordinating the initiative in New Hampshire. The Domestic Violence Protocol for Health Care Professionals: Identification and Treatment of Adult Victims was recently updated and presented to the NH Medical Society. For more information, or training on the protocol, please contact Heather L. Farr at heather@nhcadsv.org.

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