

## From the Director

Dear Friends,

As we move into fall, I'm pleased to look back on the summer of 2002 as a time of productivity for the Domestic Violence and Mental Health Policy Initiative (DVMHPI) and its partner agencies. Since our last newsletter, we've been working closely with many of our committed partner agencies and together we've made meaningful progress toward our goal of creating an integrated response to the mental health impact of domestic violence on survivors and their children. Our collaborative efforts in the areas of training, policy and practice recommendations, and website development are especially noteworthy.

As you may already know, DVMHPI launched the Intensive Trauma Training and Implementation Program (ITTIP) in May. Eighteen Chicago-area domestic violence and mental health agencies are participating in the ITTIP, which will prepare agencies to develop and sustain trauma-informed services that address the mental health needs of domestic violence survivors and their children. Teams from nine agencies have already completed the full sequence of training (48 hours); nine more will finish the training in early 2003. Agency personnel who have received the intensive training will participate in ongoing peer supervision as well as consultation with the training specialists. Ultimately, we anticipate that the experience of these agencies will help us better understand both the challenges and the benefits of providing trauma-informed services.

Two of our critical issue workgroups have been especially active in recent months. In May, the *Women and Trauma* group decided to form a small subgroup to develop screening and assessment guidelines for use in both domestic violence and mental health settings. The subgroup has nearly finished drafting these guidelines; we hope to have them finalized and available for our partner agencies before the end of the year. Also, the workgroup on *Domestic Violence in the Context of Serious Mental Illness* is in the process of drafting recommendations for establishing trauma-informed standards of care in a variety of mental health settings in which survivors of domestic violence may receive services. The workgroup on *Children Who Witness Domestic Violence* was on hiatus over the summer and will reconvene in December. Finally, the *Culture, Community, and Spirituality* workgroup, also dormant in recent months, will meet this winter to plan a symposium on related issues in 2003. A full calendar of both Critical Issue and Regional workgroup meetings can be found on the opposite page.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the launching of our website, located at [www.dvmhpi.org](http://www.dvmhpi.org). A brief article on the opposite page provides an overview of the website. We hope that the website will be a useful tool both for our local partner agencies and for clinicians, advocates, policymakers, and organizations throughout the country who look to our project for innovative approaches to responding to the mental health impact of domestic violence.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in this work, and for the contributions of time and expertise that enable the Initiative to move forward.

Sincerely,  
Carole Warshaw, MD

## **DVMHPI is online!**

The Domestic Violence and Mental Health Policy Initiative website is up and running at [www.dvmhpi.org](http://www.dvmhpi.org). Although many pages are still under construction, we encourage you visit regularly and monitor its progress.

We hope that the website will be a valuable resource for a variety of audiences. Local agency representatives who participate in regional and/or critical issue working groups will be able to access up-to-date logistical information about meetings; eventually, we plan to include meeting minutes and agendas. The website will also feature notices regarding upcoming training events and symposia. Visitors to the website will find important information about the impact of domestic violence on mental health, and in the coming months we will begin to post many of the reports, practice recommendations, and other publications that have grown out of our collaborative endeavors.

## **DVMHPI**

### **Directory of Services to be updated**

Last year, DVMHPI research associate Holly Barnes compiled a *Directory of Services* comprising 35 local domestic violence, mental health, social service, and substance abuse agencies participating in the Initiative. The directory features a wealth of information about the services provided at each agency, including details about eligibility criteria and referral procedures. Each listing also includes the name and telephone number of a contact person who can answer questions and help determine if a referral to the agency is appropriate.

Since the directory was distributed in 2001, many participants have cited it as an excellent resource for accessing needed services for their clients. Based on that feedback, we will be expanding and updating the directory in the coming months. In addition to the items described above, the 2003 directory will include information about agencies' participation in the Intensive Trauma Training and Implementation Program. We will also explore the possibility of posting the directory on the DVMHPI website (with agencies' consent, of course).

DVMHPI will contact agencies featured in the first edition of the directory to update each listing and to gather new information. Additionally, we will approach agencies that have recently become involved in DVMHPI and are not featured in the original directory. If you want your agency to be included, please contact Yasmeen Ansari at 312/633-3223.

## **DVMHPI MEETING CALENDAR**

**Your response is crucial.** *In order to plan productive meetings, it is helpful for us to know who will be there. We ask you to call or email our office to let us know if you plan to attend any of the meetings announced below. RSVP to Yasmeen Ansari at 312/633-3223 or [yasmeen.ansari@hektoen.org](mailto:yasmeen.ansari@hektoen.org). Only those who have indicated they plan on attending can be notified in the event of a location change or meeting cancellation.*

### **REGIONAL NETWORKING EVENT**

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002 10 am - noon

DePaul University Egan Urban Center, 243 South Wabash, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago

This winter we are pleased to offer a citywide networking event in place of the regular regional workgroups. The two-hour meeting will be held downtown and will give agency representatives an opportunity to learn about successful interagency collaborations and to network with domestic violence, mental health, and substance abuse service providers from their communities. In the second hour of the meeting, participants will break into their usual regional workgroups. We are still in the process of planning this meeting, so if there is an item you'd like to see on the agenda, or if there are particular agencies in your community you'd like us to invite, please contact Yasmeeen by phone or email (see above).

### **CRITICAL ISSUE WORKGROUP MEETING CALENDAR**

Critical issue workgroups meet quarterly to explore and respond to issues of central concern to the Initiative and to develop integrated practice guidelines and policy recommendations in their area of focus. We encourage consistent participation by participants who can report authoritatively on their agencies' efforts to respond to the mental health impact of domestic violence on their clients. If you are interested in joining one of the critical issue workgroups, please contact DVMHPI so we can furnish you with background information prior to the meetings.

### **Women and Trauma**

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – noon

Metropolitan Family Services, 14 East Jackson, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, Chicago

### **Children Who Witness Domestic Violence**

Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (\*this is a new date 11/01/02)

DePaul University Egan Urban Center, 243 South Wabash, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago

### **Domestic Violence in the Context of Serious Mental Illness**

Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:30 am

Mercy Hospital Mental Health Center, 2525 South Michigan, Lower Level, Chicago

### **Culture, Community, and Spirituality**

A symposium on these topics is being planned for early 2003. In November, we will contact individuals who participated in this workgroup in the past or who have communicated their interest in joining to invite their participation in an advisory group for the symposium. Once the event is scheduled, details will be available on our website ([www.dvmhpi.org](http://www.dvmhpi.org)) or from Yasmeeen (see above).