

Alaska Home Visiting Virtual Summit

January 13-14, 2021

Virtual CUES Background and Learning Objectives:

FUTURES' National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence supports health care professionals, domestic violence experts, survivors, and policy makers at all levels as they improve health care's response to domestic violence. Specifically, for home visitation, and to answer the MICHVE IPV Benchmark, FUTURES created a curriculum, Healthy Moms Happy Babies (HMHB), to help support home visitors and their clients experiencing domestic violence or IPV.

HMHB highlights our evidence-based intervention, CUES. CUES is an acronym that stands for the steps of the intervention: Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment, and Support. This universal education approach is not disclosure-driven and thus ensures that all clients receive information on healthy and unhealthy relationships and how it can impact health, regardless of whether a client indicates that they are experiencing violence. This is an important way to promote health equity—CUES also prompts providers to share their power by not requiring disclosure for the patient to receive these educational brochures that have safer planning and information on domestic hotlines and chat lines for support. Built on research related to how altruism and helping to heal others as way to heal ourselves-- patients are given multiple copies of the tool with the recommendations that they can use them to help others who may need it like friends and families within their communities thus providing a cover for anyone who cannot share they are actually the ones that need the help. As many health settings have now transitioned to telehealth visits, our CUES intervention has been adapted for virtual implementation. This adaptation for telehealth visits includes guidance for increased attention to client privacy and confidentiality while providing virtual support, as well as guidance for sharing resources electronically rather than with hard copy materials. Big picture, given the current political climate and recognition of opportunities to do antiracist work for all systems--the time is nigh for us to talk about meeting mothers and families where they are and engage in healing centered care as a central tenant to healing moving forward.

Given the COVID 19 pandemic, and the shift to virtual home visitation, we recognize that is very difficult for home visitors to determine client safety and confidentiality for home visitors and promote healthy relationships. The "shelter-in-place" recommendations for communities can increase the risks for survivors of Domestic Violence (DV)/Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and their children. The lack of privacy for conversations and heightened isolation makes it difficult to assess the home environment and figure out if coercion and abuse are happening to a client.

During this training, we will review promising practices for home visitors within a virtual space reviewing how power and control issues may look different within the 'shelter in place' situation and how this might prevent clients from being able to disclose abuse or reach out for help. Talking about healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to help friends and family is a strategy that builds stronger client relationships and allows survivors to hear about resources and ways to promote safety without disclosure of IPV. The intervention strategies we will be sharing are adapted for virtual home visitation settings for staff to use with caregivers.

However, when disclosures happen, the goal is to understand the survivor's perspective and priorities, and work collaboratively with the client to strengthen their safety plan - building on strategies that they have used in the past, and to connect with the National Domestic Violence hotline or local domestic violence advocacy programs for ongoing systemic advocacy, problem-solving around safer planning and available resources including possible financial assistance.

Learning Objectives:

As a result of the HMHB training, you will be able to:

1. Learn 3 ways to promote healing and self-care to strengthen staff relationships
2. Understand evolving practices and challenges around virtual home visits and IPV
3. Learn CUES, a trauma-informed evidenced-based intervention, to address domestic violence, adapted for virtual home visits
4. Learn about virtual safer planning strategies during heightened isolation and advocacy resources

Consultant Bio:

Rebecca Levenson, Is a former Senior Policy Analyst and now a consultant for FUTURES Without Violence. A nationally-recognized researcher, educator, advocate, and speaker, on domestic violence she has worked extensively within primary care, adolescent, reproductive and perinatal health within federal and state programs, community clinics, FQHCs and home visitation programs for the past 22 years. She is the architect for FUTURES evidence-based intervention called CUES—which calls into question the limitations of disclosure driven practices for screening for domestic violence highlighting the power of relationship building through universal education and altruism. Ms. Levenson is the co-author of numerous publications and domestic violence training resources, including FUTURES Healthy Moms/Happy Babies curricula on how to address domestic violence for home visitation programs.