



DOMESTIC ABUSE SCREENING & PREVENTION

A PROGRAM BY **GetWell**

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In collaboration with:



Health Care Providers Training

We are submitting this Letter of Interest with the intent to receive support from your foundation. I am writing in request of a 2 year, \$75,000 grant (a total of \$150,000) in support of core operating expenses for health care providers training. These funds will be used in support of the following advocacy and training program activities:

Advocacy:

"Ask a Question, Save a Life" is a campaign designed to change the social norms of the health care world including a comprehensive "tool kit" for detecting and treating domestic violence in the clinical setting. This will include posters, brochures and other tools that will help educate patients and aid physicians in implementing the PVS Abuse Assessment Response Course (See Page 2, #2) recommendations. It will also include training a core group of physician advocates as spokespersons for the campaign. The campaign will be launched in partnership with Fenton Communications which has acquired a thorough understanding of the issues and players in violence prevention and health care through their work with the Harvard School of Public Health and the American Medical Association. Funding will support the launch of the "Ask a Question, Save a Life" campaign in a targeted group of hospitals and clinics.

Training:

The PVS Abuse Assessment Response Course: Systems Approach to Partner Violence Across the Life Span is a new multi-disciplinary, multi-specialty course featuring valuable resources for physicians to identify, screen, and document domestic violence in the clinical setting. For permanent change to occur, medical institutions (including medical schools) must be convinced to implement systematic assessment and treatment of domestic violence. The Business Case for Domestic Violence Programs in Health Care Settings, a crucial part of the course, will help persuade executives in hospitals and clinics of the financial benefits of supporting a domestic violence program.

Funding will support the distribution and technical support needed to successfully implement and evaluate the PVS Abuse Assessment Response Course in hospitals and clinics.

The PVS Abuse Assessment Response Course offers the most comprehensive modules specific to the medical school setting available to date. It has proven effective and received respect by medical providers. California alone has 1500 physicians using the course for teaching purpose.

Our goal would be to replicate this success with a team who has the experience and know how to penetrate the medical institutions. PVS is the only organization of its kind. No other organization engages physicians as successfully on the issue of domestic violence and prevention. PVS was established in 1993 by two emergency physicians, Drs. Patricia Salber and Ellen Taliaferro.

The goals for each of the above mentioned programs are directly in support of our mission to promote leadership and advocacy in the health care community. We do this:

1. by providing the training and tools necessary to improve the health care response to domestic violence within the clinical setting and,
2. by supporting physician advocates in their violence prevention work outside the clinical setting.

PVS has an experienced, full-time staff of four and a dedicated Board of Directors. The executive director has been with PVS for over 3 years and co-founder, Dr. Patricia Salber has acted as Board President for several consecutive years. The Board has successfully transitioned from a Founding Board to a Governing Board and 100% of the PVS Staff and Board donate to PVS annually. This year also marks the 10-year anniversary.

If you would like a full proposal outlining the goals, objectives, and more detailed evaluation plans and budget of our core programming, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for this opportunity and your ongoing dedication to violence prevention. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

NicoletteAndrewsM.D.

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DOMESTIC ABUSE SCREENING AND PREVENTION

Training for Health Care Providers

Executive Summary

■ Problem

More than 3-5 women and men are murdered/day:

Domestic abuse is an under diagnosed social and psychological problem causing disabling illnesses in the United States .

On average, more than three to five women and men are murdered by their spouse or partner in this country every day. In 2000, 1,247 women were killed by an intimate partner. The same year, 440 men were killed by an intimate partner. Estimates range from 960,000 incidents of violence against a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend per year to three million women who are physically abused by their husband or boyfriend per year. As many as 324,000 women each year experience intimate partner violence during their pregnancy.

The problem of domestic abuse costs the US . health care system \$20-45 billion/year. It has been determined that only 2% of domestic abuse injuries are diagnosed by physicians and that physicians are still too poorly trained on this topic to recognize signs of domestic abuse. Despite medical school training, only 10% of physicians report routinely screening for this problem.

■ Solution

This problem could be addressed and changed significantly by increasing awareness and educating the medical profession to recognize the signs and symptoms, routinely screening for this problem and by proper referral to trained professionals. For every 1% of increase in detection by physicians in the United States , \$250-450 million/year in health care costs would be saved.

GetWell has chosen to work closely with Physicians for a Violence-free Society to provide a proven successful teaching module for physicians. This approach has been used in California and Arizona and has been able to reach 1500 physicians in CA alone in a short time. PVS appears to be the most successful entity at the provider level.

Their Board members bring national credentials and significant political weight and are able to address the issues at the policy level."

■ **Project Description**

● **Goals**

The overall plan is to:

1. Provide education for physicians in recognizing signs of domestic abuse, following the guidelines of existing programs.
2. Develop an active program similar to the PVS program in California , on the East Coast. The PVS program was able to train 1500 physicians effectively. The curriculum was developed by physicians and supported by several grants including one from NIH.
3. Encourage medical societies and hospitals to offer courses in detection of domestic abuse.
4. Give presentation to associations in hope of increasing public awareness of the legal implication due to lack of reports.
5. Work at policy level change to mandate training at State licensing level..

■ **Advocacy:**

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■ **Funding Requirement**

In the initial phase of this project the plan will be to develop the basis for an advocacy program. The second phase is to implement the tools previously developed and the third phase will confirm the effectiveness of the proven approach. The cost to train one provider is \$100.

Each trained physician can save 18 patients life in the course of their practice.

Our budget for the coming year is \$161,000 for training.