Systemic Change For A Safer State of Family

West Virginia Summary of Systemic Change
Resulting From Statewide Collaborative Initiatives

Systemic Change	Adult and Child Safety	Batterer Accountability
Procedural rules to monitor and hold accountable referrals to CPS from Family Court	Safety services directed to proper jurisdiction and followed for compliance with statutes	Accountability for child victimization is held through CPS proceedings instead of custody or protective order proceedings
Policy eliminating "failure to protect"	Safety services provided for adult and child victims	Responsibility for harm to child is placed on the batterer
Co-Petitioning (CPS with the Battered Parent in the CPS court process)	• Safety services provided for adult and child victims • Battered parent receives attorney • Battered parent is not a respondent/defendant	The petition is filed against the batterer for the harm to the child
"No-Fault" Battered Parent Adjudication	• Safety services provided for adult and child victims • Battered parent receives attorney • "Battered parent" is a not at fault but a victim • May have removal of the child that can range from temporary removal to termination of parental rights (only in special circumstances that are different than other TPR proceedings)	The petition is filed against the batterer for the harm to the child
Including in the definition of child abuse child's exposure to domestic violence <u>when the exposure rises to a level of harm to the child</u>	• Combined with above options, the risks to the child are attributed to the batterer • Is not per se child abuse • Without the options above, there could be unintended consequences of failure to protect and unnecessary removals	Including exposure to DV in the child abuse definition is <u>necessary</u> to hold batterers accountable for the harm to the child
Mandatory training & cross trainings	Keeps "attitudes" and practice in compliance with policy	Keeps "attitudes" and practice in compliance with policy