1. What current best practices are you seeing being led by any type of faith-based organization? Can you recommend any organizations?
   1. The best faith-based organization I know of is Called to Peace Ministries. [www.calledtopeace.org](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.calledtopeace.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Crachael%40allianceforhope.com%7C0f0f87e61614452064fd08ddef12fd2f%7C84783d3e74474fb198d5b3b43eeadda6%7C0%7C0%7C638929587061849560%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2BTyKTOnMn6ke5X8HwdknWx4wqvms2cIm87043PNI8%2FU%3D&reserved=0)
2. Chat had a lot of wonderful discussions about early education for children and teens on domestic violence. How do you think we can share this information with our local school communities?
   1. I was delighted to see during the presentation that there was an extensive discussion of school programs. My career in the DV movement started when I served on the board of a battered women's shelter and later also served as chairperson. Our school program was my favorite program because most of our other work was responding after something bad happened and this program had the opportunity to prevent abuse before it happened. I attended some of the classes and engaged with our instructors frequently. I strongly support the basic DV information our programs are sharing with students and the support they provide. I think we can expand what we cover based on the research particularly ACE. It is important that instead of asking what is wrong with a child, we should ask what was done to the child. Children need to be aware that the custody courts are broken, and it isn't their mothers' fault if they are not protected. They should be told that even if exposed to DV, child abuse, and other ACEs, they can still avoid the consequences. It is important for them to do things to reduce their stress. This can include exercise, yoga, meditation, breathing exercises, massage, and laughter. It will be important when they are older to tell their doctors about their exposure to ACEs because that can help the doctor diagnose and treat them. I think it would also be helpful for them to learn about the larger issues, and they can have a much better life by being the generation that stops tolerating DV.
3. Do you have a short video with this information or some kind of fact sheet or brochure we can share with community partners like law enforcement?
   1. I am nor sure we have precisely what the questioner asked for and hope to put together such materials in the future. In the meantime, we have many articles and some videos on our website that they are welcome to use. Barrygoldstein.net
4. How do we talk about problems with law enforcement and court systems when there is a lot of pushback against criticism of those systems in our community?
   1. With respect to both law enforcement and the courts, it is important to understand that there is now really important research that wasn't available at the start of the DV movement. Many of the earlier practices like courts turning to mental health professionals as if they were DV experts and police responding by separating the parties and walking the abuser around the block to cool off are mistaken. It is important to have a process to take a fresh look at standard procedures with the ability to integrate evidence-based approaches.
   2. Law Enforcement: They should recognize they have a strong personal interest in taking DV seriously. DV calls are the most dangerous for police officers. Half of the mass shootings are committed by DV abusers. Most men in jail had a childhood history that included DV and often sexual abuse. There are many communities like Quincy, MA, Nashville, San Diego, and High Point, NC that have developed effective practices that were successful in dramatically reducing DV crimes and especially murders. The successful responses included strict enforcement of criminal laws, restraining orders, and probation rules. They also included a coordinated community response and making abusers aware that practices have changed and they can expect consequences for these crimes. The research says only accountability and monitoring are effective in changing an abusers' behavior. DV is one of the most underreported crimes. This means what appears to be a first arrest is unlikely to be a first offense. Instead, it is an opportunity to make a difference by taking the crime seriously. The victim took a serious risk in reporting it. If the offender gets off without meaningful consequences, it is likely there won't be further reports and the victim will suffer and silence and so will the children, Contrary to popular myths, women rarely make false reports, but men often do. Police need to avoid arresting the victim. Not only is this a waste of resources, but it means when the abuser commits more crimes it is hard to prosecute because he is already a prosecution witness.
   3. Courts: The big picture is that courts have no idea of the catastrophic harm they are causing, and not just to the immediate victims in individual cases. In the last 16 years, over 1000 children involved in contested custody have been murdered, mostly by abusive fathers. Sill more children will die early from suicide or drug overdose, and others will die prematurely from cancer, heart disease and many other diseases related to the stress ACE tells us is the most harmful effect of DV and child abuse. At the start of the DV movement, many reforms were created that made it easier for victims to leave their abusers. As a result, for three decades there was a steady decrease in DV homicides. The ability of abusive fathers to manipulate family courts to regain power and control makes it almost impossible for victims to escape. As a result, all the progress we made has been reversed and the DV homicide is higher than ever. The court failures have also contributed to the $3.6 trillion the US pays to tolerate DV. Part of the problem is that custody courts use the same approach for the vast majority of cases that involve two safe parents as they do with the DV cases that are so dangerous. They use a high conflict approach which creates a false equivalency between victims and abusers. As a result, they fail to understand the fundamental nature of the cases. In most DV custody cases, the abusive father who had limited involvement with the children during the relationship seeks custody or shared parenting (as a first step) to regain what they believe is their right to control their partner and punish her for leaving. Courts cannot assume the alleged abuser is acting for control but also should not assume they are acting out of love for the children. The standard and outdated court practices used in DV cases include: relying on biased and unscientific alienation theories; failure to use ACE and Saunders that go to the essence of the wellbeing of children; failure to prevent gender bias; failure to level the playing field so abusers use the family's financial resources to gain an unfair advantage; frequent retaliation against protective mothers, usually based on biased alienation theories or failure to recognize true reports of abuse that as a result cause many attorneys to be afraid to present evidence of DV or the research; and high conflict approaches. All of these flawed and outdated practices tilt courts in favor of abusive fathers. No judge wants to hurt children, but it is hard to protect children using these practices and not understanding the fundamental nature of these cases.
5. How can we engage men through a national campaign?
   1. The new research about cancer and heart disease, increased DV homicides, and huge financial costs should provide an incentive for men to take a larger role. I think they would also respond to the horrific pattern of painful outcomes, particularly the over 1000 children murdered. We can tell some of those unbearable stories. Maybe get young men from the community the courts failed to protect tell their stories.
6. How could we advocate for more mandatory professional trainings for judges and other court staff about DV and its long lasting effects on victims?
7. How do we get judicial figures to change their engrained thoughts on DV/IPV, especially those who have a long history of seeing victims as the problem?
   1. One of the things I like about our research related to cancer and heart disease is that it speaks to a bigger picture. The comparison between ACE and the 1964 Surgeon General's Report is exciting. We can use ACE to change society in the most wonderful ways. There is no need for them to be defensive in participating in such a campaign. I have always wanted to ask judges how can it possibly make sense to make decisions about DV and child abuse without ACE which tells us the full extent of the harm caused. I don't think they can have an answer. They just never got around to updating practices.