Police Assisted Referral

3.3 million children are exposed to domestic violence yearly in the U.S. Any type of violence can interfere with a child’s ability to think, learn, and develop. Prolonged exposure can result in depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dissociation, anger, and violent outbursts. But, early intervention by skilled practitioners can lessen this distress.

Meeting Outcomes –

- Police have referred over 4,600 individuals, including 2,900 youths
- 98% of families receive contact/educational materials from FrontLine, 20% participate in on-going services

Changing Perceptions of Police –

Over the past 12 months, PAR has surveyed all adult participants (survey response rate 24%, n=273).

Here’s what we found...

- 55% indicated that there are adults in the neighborhood their children can look up to. BUT 60% didn’t think an adult would try to help if there was a fight in front of their house
- Nearly 60% of respondents had been threatened with physical harm in the last year, AND almost 70% had seen someone else threatened
- 54% had seen someone else beaten up or mugged in the last year
- 76% indicated the referral was helpful
- 93% thought all police should be able to make referrals like these
- 90% felt the officer was respectful
- When asked “Has your opinion of the police changed as a result of receiving this referral?” respondents indicated:

Here’s why residents felt the program should continue...

Police Assisted Referral (PAR) –

PAR creates a conduit for officers to connect violence-exposed youths and families to services, education, and mental health screening and treatment. PAR capitalizes on CMHAPD’s community partnerships to provide quality services to residents.

Here’s how PAR works...

1. Police receive annual training on:
   - Youth development
   - Brain research
   - Domestic violence
   - PAR implementation

2. After a referral is made a social worker contacts the family within 72 hours. Services include:
   - Assessment
   - Information & referral
   - Crisis case management
   - On-going services

3. Police have referred over 4,600 individuals, including 2,900 youths

Funding Provided By:

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Local Funding Partnerships
- Saint Luke’s Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

Presented by: Jenni Bartholomew, Mark Singer, Andres Gonzalez, Michael Walker