Program Description

When officers identify children in need of intervention due to exposure to trauma or violence, they contact the social worker who is available to provide direct intervention to the child(ren) and family at their home, at the MGH clinic, or the police station.

These voluntary clinical interventions aim to lessen the impact of traumatic experiences on children's health and mental health. Children are empowered to express their feelings, to demonstrate strengths, and to learn coping skills amid these traumatic situations.

Children and parents are provided information about the effects of violence on children and are provided referrals for concrete services, health, and behavioral health services to promote early intervention.

Police – Mental Health Partnership

The MGH social worker is an integral part of all police training.

Police Training

A clinical social worker participates in required police training to all officers of the department as well as to new recruits. Officers learn to identify children at the scenes of 911 calls and to intervene on their behalf when they witness violence, neglect, or physical or sexual abuse. Officers are trained on the importance of their role with children in the community beyond emergent situations.

Police Consultation

A clinical social worker is available to consult to all police officers regarding children and other vulnerable populations.

Training within the Health Center

The clinical social worker teaches interns and residents about the program. They are provided the opportunity to attend a PACT meeting at the police station where cases are reviewed among police officers, a DCF supervisor, a domestic violence advocate, and the clinical social worker. Trainees are provided the opportunity to participate in a ride along with a police officer.

PACT is a program of the MGH Center for Community Health Improvement. PACT is sponsored by the Massachusetts General Hospital, MGH Chelsea HealthCare Center, and Partners HealthCare.

For additional information contact Georgia Green, LICSW at (617) 889-8543 or via email: ggreen1@partners.org