



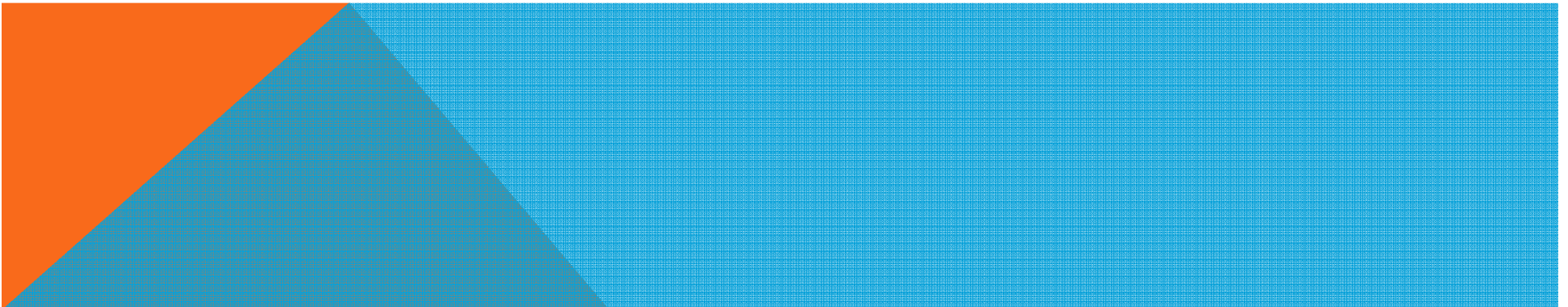
APPLYING THE SAFE AND TOGETHER™ MODEL TO CUSTODY AND VISITATION

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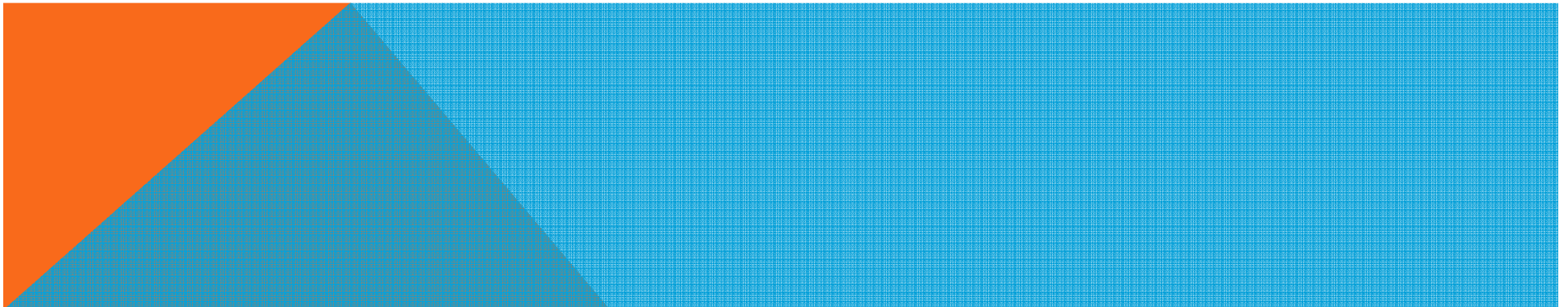
DAVID MANDEL & ASSOCIATES LLC
OCTOBER 20 2011

WHAT IS SAFE AND TOGETHER?

- It's combination of assumptions, principles and critical components designed to improve competencies and cross system collaboration in domestic violence cases involving children.
- The name, Safe and Together, refers to the idea that children exposed to batterer behavior are best served when they can be kept safe and together with the domestic violence survivor.



FIELD TESTED NATIONAL MODEL



STABLE MODEL, VARYING APPLICATION

**Child welfare subject matter experts and
Co-located advocate (Florida)**

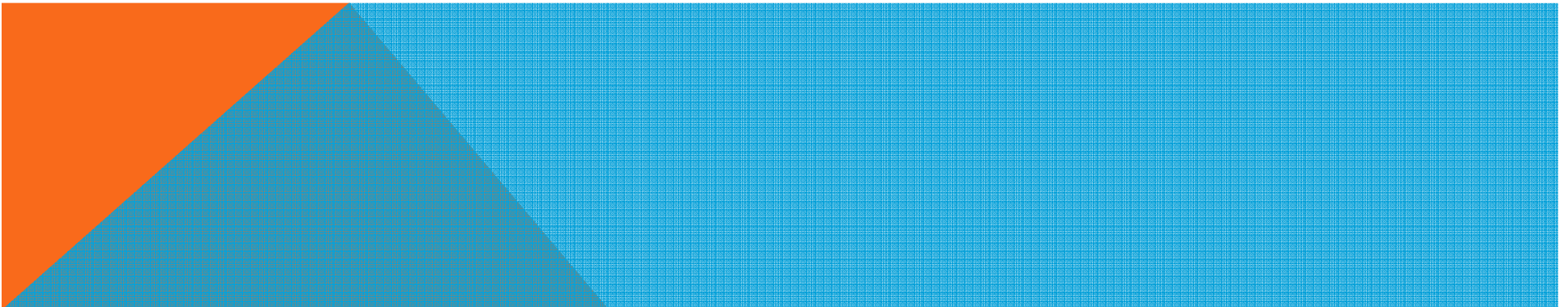
**Intensive training for Alternative Response
workers (Ohio)**

**Joint training of domestic violence
advocates and child welfare workers
(Colorado)**

**Dedicated child welfare domestic violence
consultants (Connecticut)**

**Intensive child welfare supervisor training
(Jackson County MO)**

Statewide supervisor training (Louisiana)



INTERSECTION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Severity

- Multiple studies indicate that child fatalities or critical incidents may have domestic violence as factor (as high as 2 out of 3)
- Adult domestic violence fatalities and life threatening assaults are often not considered critical incidents from a child welfare perspective.

Prevalence

- Between 45-70% of children exposed to domestic violence are also victims of physical abuse

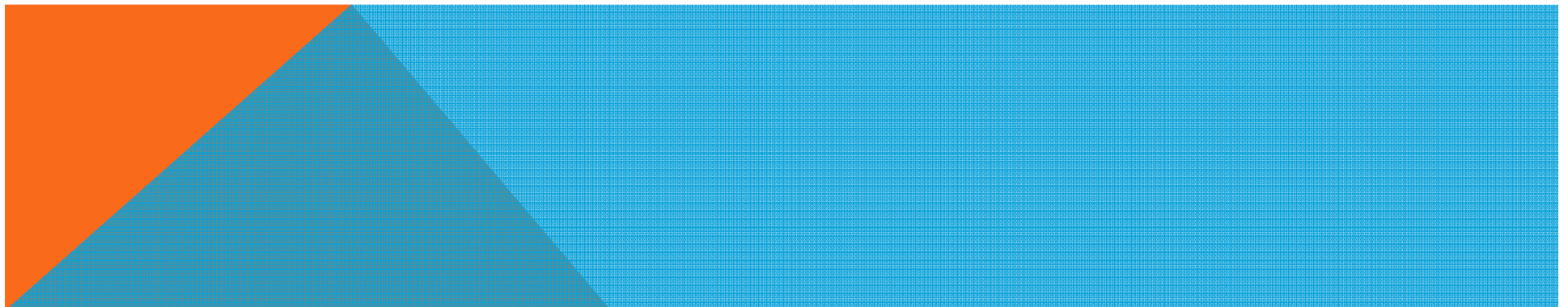
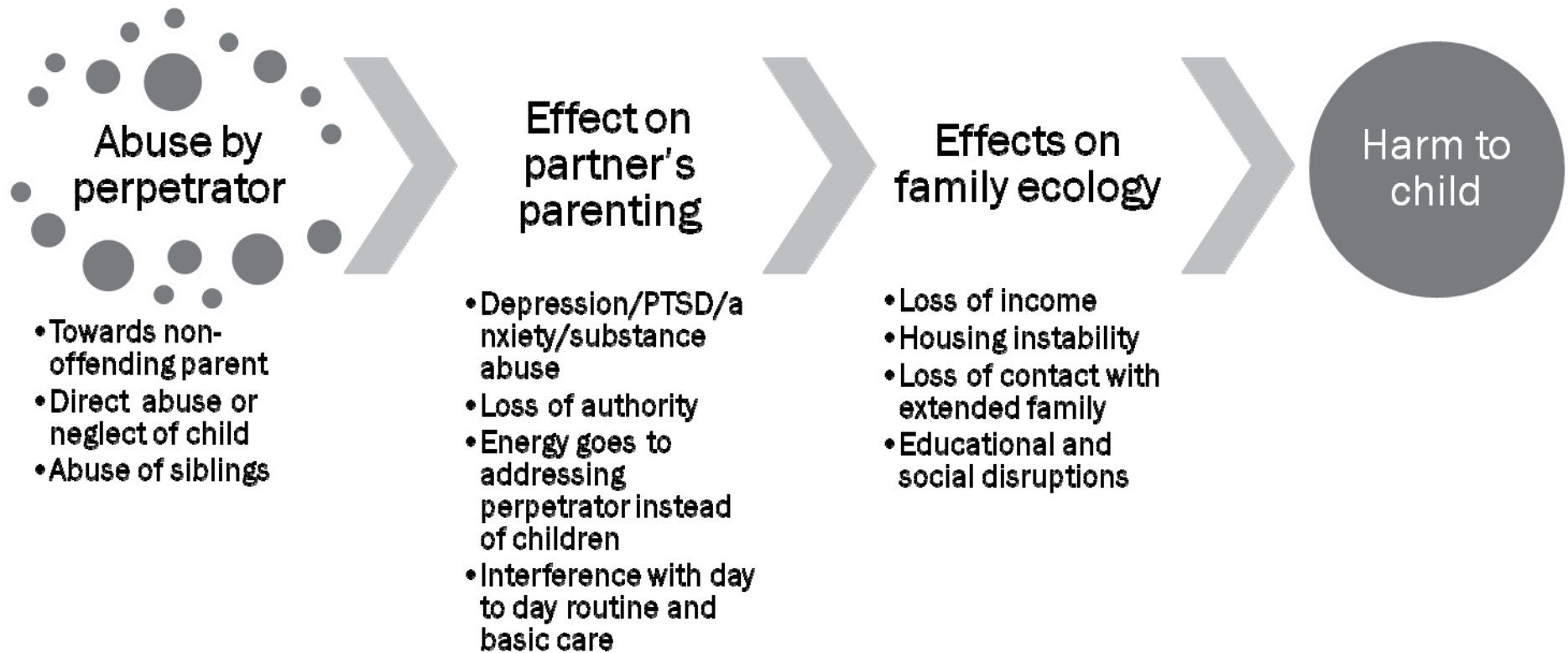
Impact

- Children can experience mild to severe impact from perpetrator's behavior in all the major domains of their functioning.

Domestic violence as context for other issues

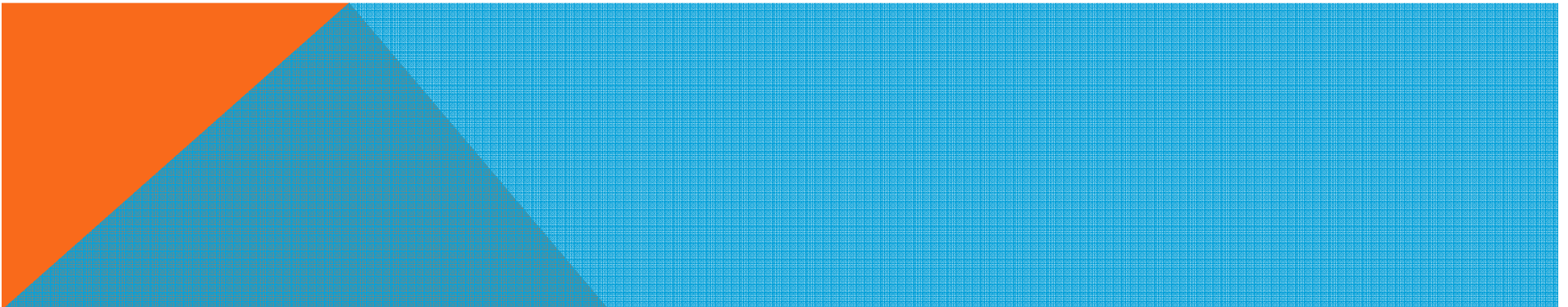
- Domestic violence is often an important historic and/or current issue in families when delinquency, child to parent violence, mental health or other problems are the presenting issue.

PATHWAYS TO HARM



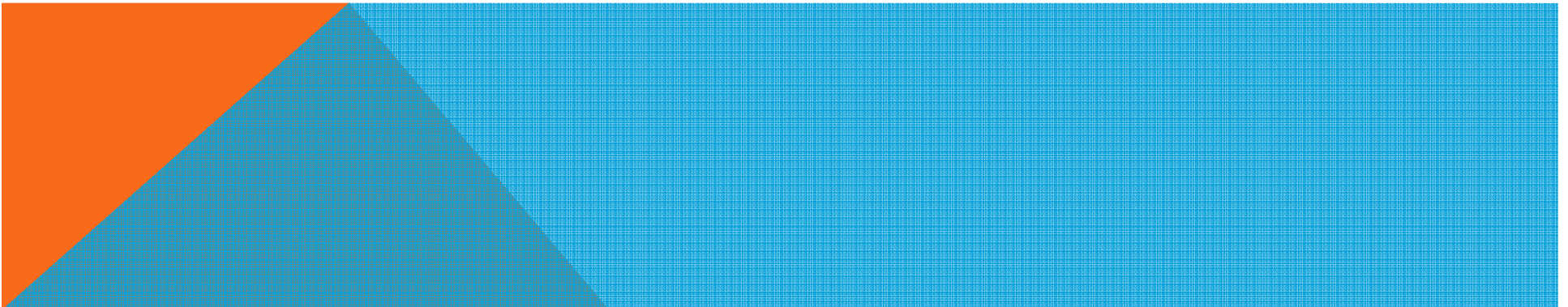
SAFE AND TOGETHER ASSUMPTIONS: POLICY

- Child Welfare, Family Courts and others need DV competencies
 - Distinct from but complements cross system collaboration
 - Child welfare, family can benefit from good relationships with, the presence of and the expertise of domestic violence advocates
- The interest of child serving systems are in 95% alignment with the interests of battered women.
- Double standards around gender can benefit domestic violence perpetrators

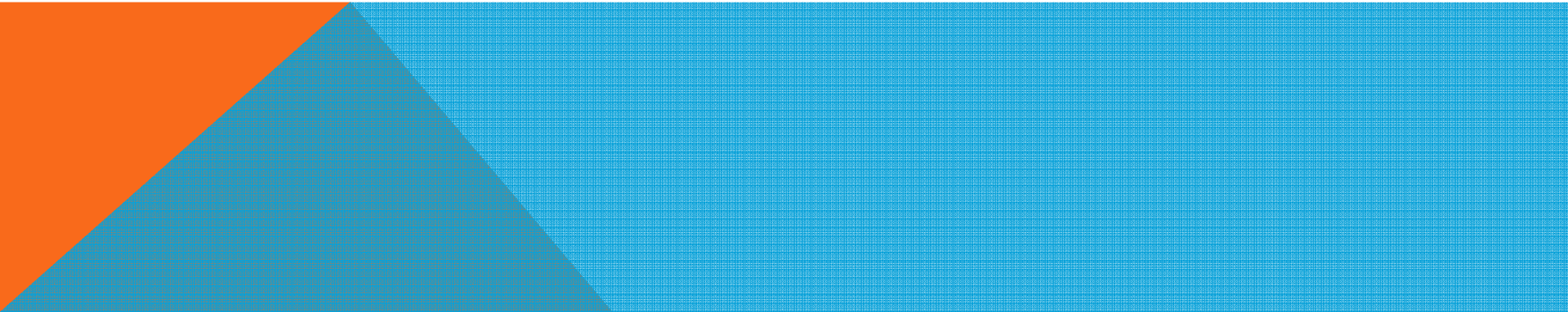
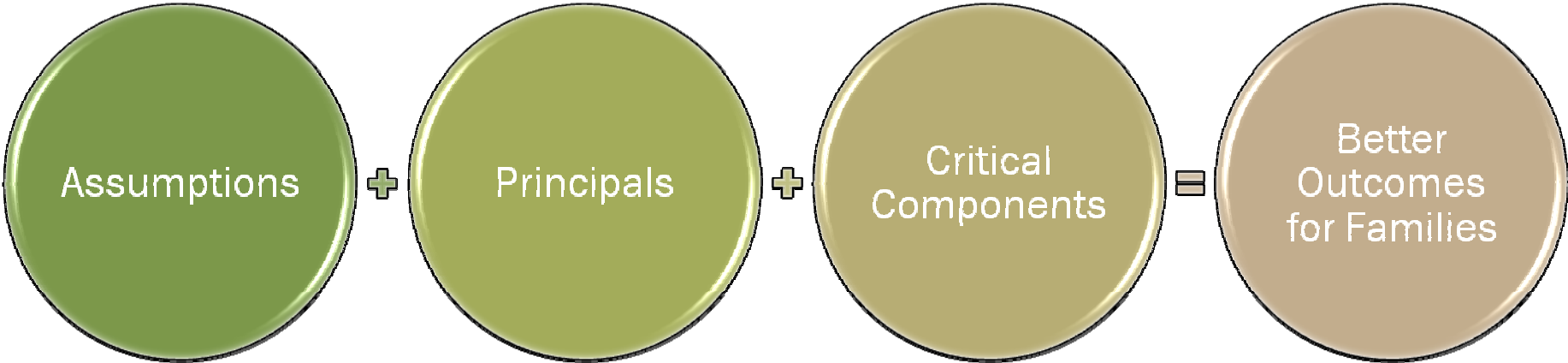


SAFE AND TOGETHER ASSUMPTIONS: PRACTICE

- Batterers can harm children
- Child safety and risk assessment flows first and foremost from an understanding of the perpetrator's tactics
 - NOT from focusing on where people are living or the status of the relationship
- Better assessment trumps empathy as tool
- Principles and critical components of Safe and Together provide a framework for case practice and cross system collaboration



SAFE AND TOGETHER MODEL



SAFE AND TOGETHER™ PRINCIPLES

1

Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent
Safety Healing from trauma Stability and nurturance

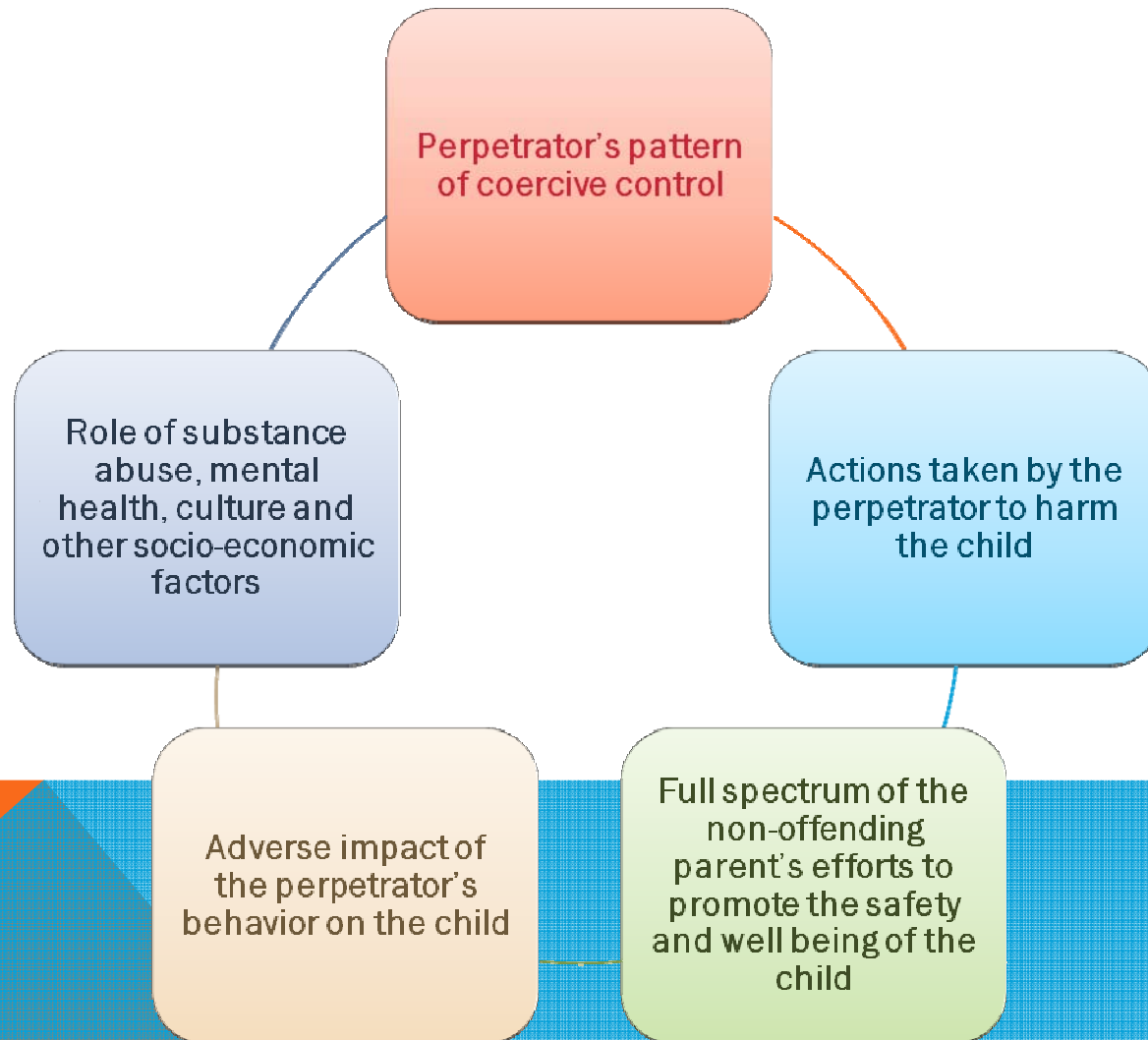
2

Partnering with non-offending parent as default position
Efficient Effective Child-centered

3

Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child
Engagement Accountability Courts

SAFE AND TOGETHER™ CRITICAL COMPONENTS



ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE BATTERER TO HARM THE CHILDREN

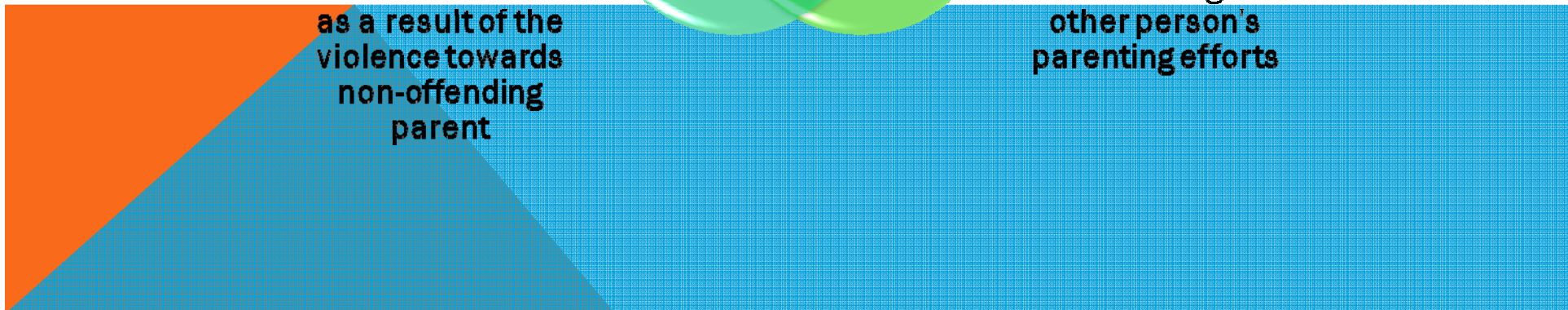
Choosing to expose
them to their abusive
behavior

Physical/sexual/e
motional abuse or
neglect
perpetrated
directly against the
children

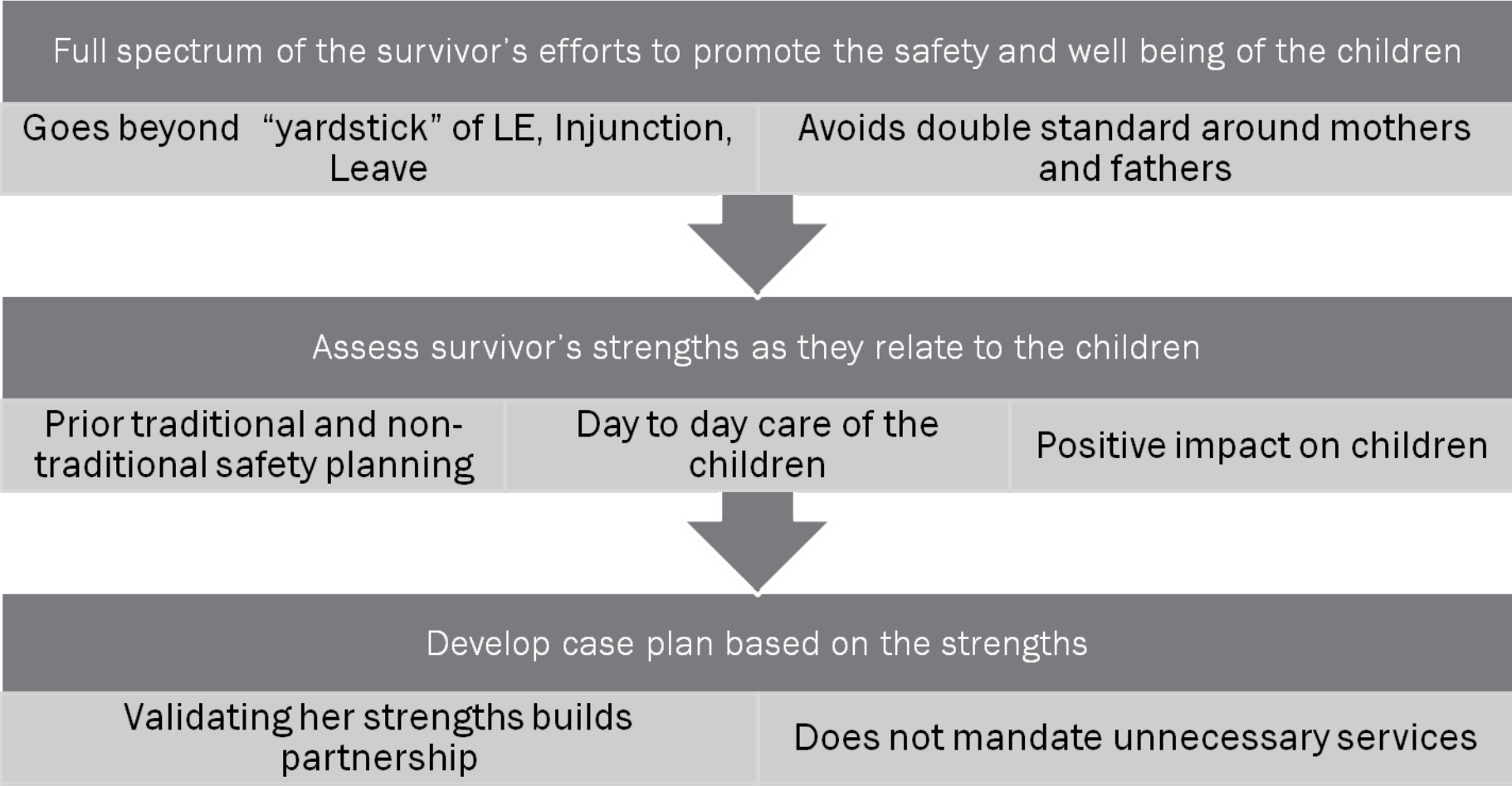
Using children as a
weapon against
the children's
other parent

Accidentally
causing physical
harm to children
as a result of the
violence towards
non-offending
parent

Undermining the
other person's
parenting efforts



STRENGTHS BASED APPROACH TO NON-OFFENDING PARENT

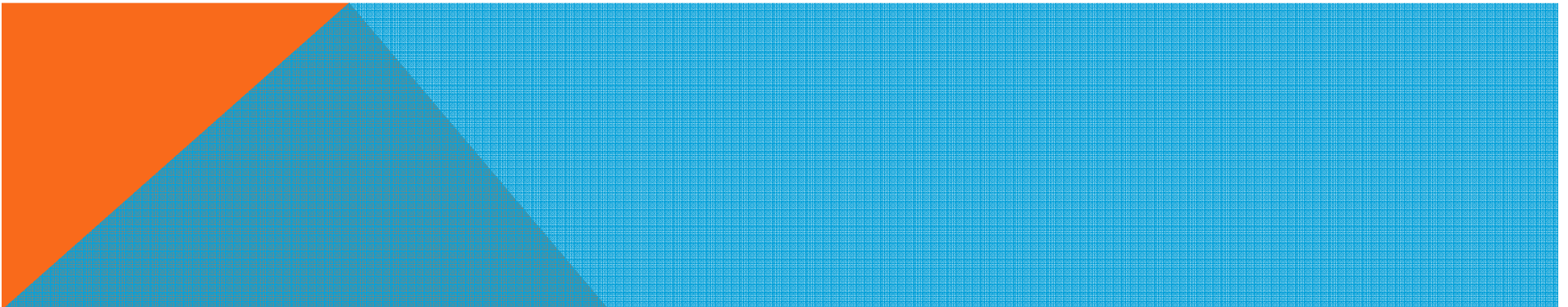


EXAMPLES OF DOCUMENTATION

- ★ Do not lump batterer and survivor together. Avoid phrases like
 - “Couple engages in violence”
 - “Parents have a history of domestic violence”
 - “Parents both deny the violence.”
- ★ Precise & descriptive
 - Avoid euphemisms or vague terms like “argued” if what you mean is “hit”
 - Describe the pattern: “father has engaged in an escalating pattern of physical violence and intimidation that involved multiple incidents of physical assault, threats to kill the mother and her children.”
- ★ Affirm the perpetrator’s role in harming the children through his actions
 - “These behaviors have isolated the mother from her support system, the children from relatives and led to them moving school systems and residences twice in the past year (as a result of evictions).”
- ★ Avoid blaming the victim for the perpetrator’s violent and abusive behavior
- ★ Language to avoid:
 - “Dysfunctional” family
 - Mother “allows” or “enables” the violence
 - Mother “failed to protect” the children

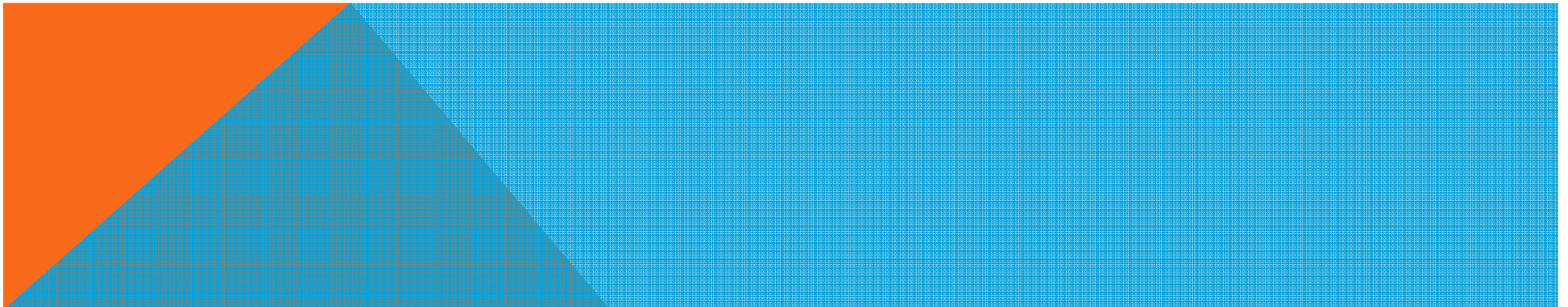
KEY PRACTICE POINTS

- **Have the specifics of the perpetrator behavior pattern been articulated?**
 - How he has acted to harm children (neglect and abuse)
 - How his actions to his partner have involved his children
 - How the children been impacted by this behavior
 - All in the context of avoiding double standard around parenting
- **Have the specifics of what the survivor has done to address the safety and well being of the children been articulated?**
 - What the survivor has done day to day to meet the basic needs of the children (parenting a foxhole)
 - What the survivor has done to promote the safety of the children
 - Avoiding yardstick that focuses exclusive on dramatic protective effort.
 - Put in the context of the perpetrator's pattern



SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Evaluators and Guardians ad litem
- Children's Therapist



SAFE AND TOGETHER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training

Child Welfare

Community
Service Providers

Domestic Violence
Advocates

Court

Others

Development of Domestic Violence Specialists

Intensive
domestic violence
trainings

Training in
consultation

Technical Assistance

Needs
Assessment

Review of
protocols and
practices

Facilitation of
cross system
dialog

Mentoring

Online Training

Coming in 2011-
2012



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FOR MORE INFORMATION