**Supporting Domestic Violence Adult Survivors and Their Children Through Partnership with Community-based Service Agencies**

\* 3. Please provide an overview of current or prior work addressing intimate partner violence (IPV) including collaborative efforts.

The Alabama Chapter-AAP has a strong history of collaboration with the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and in particular, has partnered with this agency, the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Children’s of Alabama on ACEs screening and trauma-informed care education for pediatricians over the last three years. The Chapter is developing a blueprint for addressing ACEs/trauma-informed care for its members, and through this work, has determined a need for more in-depth education on specific ACEs, such as domestic violence, which, along with children’s mental health issues in general, is on the rise since the beginning of the pandemic. In addition to our work with the agencies listed above, the AL-AAP has strong advocacy partners in VOICES for Alabama’s Children, the Alabama Partnership for Children and Children’s First Foundation, which have all prioritized ACEs and worked with us on parallel issues over the years. Most recently, the Chapter serves in an advisory capacity on the Alabama Department of Mental Health’s PATHs project, which is a five-year, HRSA-funded telemental health project administered by Children’s of Alabama that uses the ECHO model and telepsychiatry to address mental health issues in children of all ages in rural pediatric practices in Alabama. This program has also educated pediatricians across the state on both ACEs and trauma, and uses Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists as part of Project ECHO, which add to the understanding of parent-child dynamics and how domestic violence can cause tremendous disruption. And finally, the Chapter has continued to partner with the Alabama Department of Human Resources, our state child welfare agency, on numerous issues, including child abuse reporting, the state’s child endangerment law and safe sleep, among others.

#### \* 4. Please describe current or prior efforts to engage AAP members around this issue.

In addition to the efforts listed in #3 above, the Chapter held a panel discussion and special screening of the movie, *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope*, at its September 2019 conference, and has also provided CME on the impact of violence on children, including the following talks: “Kids Exposed to Violence: What Can I Do?” and “Influences of Texting, Sexting, Video Games, Pornography, and Violence on Our Patients and Us: What Can We Do About It?” This grant would allow us to take a deeper dive into the issue of domestic violence and how to address it locally for our children and parent survivors seen in pediatric practice.

In addition, this grant would provide a foundation of knowledge for pediatricians statewide as our state improvement partnership, the Alabama Child Health Improvement Alliance, makes plans for its 2024 quality improvement learning collaborative, which will focus on ACEs and trauma-informed care.

And finally, Elizabeth Dawson, MD, FAAP, lead physician on this project, has been building statewide and local partners for the past 10 years. In 2019, she founded the non-profit agency, Troy Resilience Project, whose mission is to provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships for all children. Dr. Dawson is medical director of Charles Henderson Child Health Center, which is leading the way for trauma-informed pediatrics in the state; she has served as a mentor for other practices interested in this work. Her clinic and Troy Resilience Project (TRP) are grantees of Children's Trust Fund of Alabama, which supports this work with children and families in the Troy community. Dr. Dawson’s clinic and TRP partner with Pike Regional Child Advocacy Center, Pike County DHR, East Central Mental Health, and both city and county school districts to do this work. There is no domestic violence shelter in Pike County, but they work to partner with existing agencies and those nearby to address these needs. Their in-house social workers have created a model of using real-time warm handoffs to address and support the needs of parents and families experiencing domestic violence. Dr. Dawson has presented about the impact of ACEs and the promise of resilience in the One Place Family Justice Center’s statewide ACEs roundtable discussion. Dr. Dawson has a passion for empowering other pediatricians to recognize and support families who currently or previously experienced domestic violence as she recognizes it as one of the most damaging ACEs and one of the most insidious and difficult to overcome. Troy Resilience Project earned the distinction of becoming a member of the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers as Dr. Dawson and her organization continue to build and expand their work to support all families and children in our region.

#### \* 5. Please describe how your partnership plan might address unique needs of diverse cultures and identities.

This partnership will build on the collaboration that already exists with the Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR) and the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV) through its S.A.I.L. program, which provides domestic violence screenings and services for survivors facing abuse. Supported by federal funds from the Temporary Aid to Needy Families, this project ensures that there is a domestic violence specialist on staff in each county DHR office. Working through the ACADV with each county specialist, we will assure geographic diversity and the ability for pediatricians across the state to create local understanding and partnerships. In addition, our educational webinar series (see below) will provide a culturally diverse foundation for pediatricians and child welfare and domestic violence specialists to co-educate and aid in their local approaches to providing support for families, with a particular focus on the unique needs of Hispanic and African American populations in their areas.

#### \* 6. Please provide a brief description of how the chapter will build a leadership team, a list of organizations/agencies who will be included and a draft timeline and plan for completion of required activities.

The Chapter will use its existing relationships and make contact with key state agencies and organizations to build a leadership team that consists of representatives from the following organizations:

Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (co-lead)  
Alabama Department of Human Resources  
Alabama Department of Mental Health  
Alabama Partnership for Children  
Children’s of Alabama  
VOICES for Alabama’s Children  
USA Health Children’s & Women’s Hospital  
Women’s Fund of Birmingham  
Local domestic violence centers, such as Family Sunshine Center, House of Ruth, One Place Family Justice Center

AL-AAP will host a preliminary leadership call in early February to establish the plan and timeline for action, and meet every two weeks in February and March, followed by monthly calls in April, May and June in order to further develop the partnership and address challenges faced locally by children and women experiencing violence.

The AL-AAP and key pediatricians on the leadership team will participate in the three-part AAP webinar series in February, March and April.

The Leadership Team will develop a plan of outreach to identify local domestic violence specialists associated with the SAIL program, child welfare workers and pediatricians and their staffs, and schedule/host three educational webinars for these local teams. Local teams will be given homework in between these sessions to work together to develop goals. This work will be patterned after the Chapter’s 2021 school nurse-pediatrician collaborative.

The Leadership Team will develop the final output from this work: a blueprint for local partnerships, including links to recordings of the educational webinars held during the grant project period. This “blueprint” will be shared at the AL-AAP’s 2022 Annual Meeting & Fall Pediatric Update to spread this work further, as well as state conferences for child welfare workers and domestic violence (S.A.I.L.) specialists (exact schedule to be determined).

**Timeline:**

January 31 – establish team  
  
Week of February 7 – 1st Leadership Call  
 - Develop objectives of state partnership  
  
February – team attends 1st AAP webinar

Week of February 21 – 2nd Leadership Call  
 - Finalize schedule of webinars & topic ideas  
 - Develop plan of communication to local partnership members  
  
Week of March 7 – 3rd Leadership Call  
 - Finalize speakers and educational content for webinars

March – team attends 2nd AAP webinar

Week of March 21 – 4th Leadership Call  
 - Establish final details for webinars  
 - Report on local communication efforts

April – team attends 3rd AAP webinar

Week of April 4 – 1st educational webinar

Week of April 18 – 5th Leadership Call  
 - Evaluate first webinar  
 - Review plan for remaining webinars, pivot as needed

Week of May 2 – 2nd educational webinar

Week of May 16 – 6th Leadership Call  
 - Begin evaluation of project

Week of June 6 – 3rd educational webinar

Week of June 20 – Final Leadership Call  
 - Establish next steps for partnership  
 - Contribute to progress report  
  
Summer/Fall 2022 – Panel discussions at state conferences to share blueprint

#### \* 7. Please provide (attach) a budget and budget narrative which includes $7,500 stipend for your state DV coalition to support their collaboration.

$7,500 – Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Abuse Stipend  
$2,500 - Stipend for Dr. Dawson  
$6,500 - Staff time – LL, project coordinator  
$500 - Zoom meetings/printing