

# Attorney General's & Lt. Governor's Family Violence Council

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**SUBJECT:** Position on Effectiveness of Abuser Intervention Programs

When the Family Violence Council's Domestic Violence Abuser Research Collaborative (Research Collaborative) was established in early 1997, it was charged with the following mission:

*Maryland abuser intervention programs, together with research academicians, should create a Research Task Force that will serve as a national demonstration project to develop empirically-based standards for effective abuser intervention methods. The task force should identify gaps in knowledge about the effectiveness of abuser intervention, facilitate uniform outcome data collection by all intervention programs, and conduct controlled scientific studies of various intervention methods. This will be a collaborative effort and research results are to be used to assist all programs to increase their effectiveness.*

In accordance with that mission the Research Collaborative is currently working on a project to identify key issues in domestic violence offender intervention, review the most up-to-date research pertaining to those issues, and develop a series of position papers addressing each of them. We are pleased to attach the Research Collaborative's first position paper, which addresses the issue of the effectiveness of abuser intervention programs.

We hope that you will find the position paper informative, but also useful beyond its informational value to you. We offer the following suggestions of possible uses for the document and/or the information that it contains:

1. Responding to judges, prosecutors, parole & probation agents, law enforcement professionals, and other members of the criminal justice system when they inquire about or question the role of abuser intervention programs in a coordinated response to domestic violence.
2. Responding to funding sources when they inquire about or question program effectiveness or the availability of outcome data.
3. Finding ways to continually improve the effectiveness of your program interventions.
4. Encouraging researchers in your respective communities to undertake projects to evaluate the effectiveness of different program approaches and intervention techniques.

We value your feedback. We hope that over time you will let us know how you have utilized the information in the position paper and what we might do differently to make future position papers more useful. If you wish to provide feedback or suggest topics for the Research Collaborative to explore, please contact Carol Doctrow by phone (410.576.6411) or e-mail (cdoctrow@oag.state.md.us).