

“On A Street Where You Live”

A Kaiser Permanente CareActors Presentation

NCHDV March 29-30, 2012

“On A Street Where You Live” is a powerful and innovative live theatre program for family violence education written and produced by the Kaiser Permanente CareActors theatre troupe in partnership with the Southern California KP Family Violence Prevention Program. Our goal was to develop a unique program designed to overcome physician apathy and inertia about intervening in family violence.

Synopsis:

In the play, the audience experiences how two physicians reluctantly deal with domestic violence. The story follows two Kaiser Permanente physicians-- one (Dr. Charlie Reeves) who suspects his teenage patient (Adriana) may be involved in an abusive relationship and the other (Dr. Kim Hastings) who is dealing with the cycle of family violence in her own home. The play ends with Adriana on life support and us wondering if Dr. Hastings and her daughter will leave her abusive husband or stay in the cycle of violence.

Small group discussions highlight important aspects of the play. Various didactic educational sessions are recommended to introduce and follow the play. The target audience includes clinicians and administrators from various specialties in a large, diverse medical group.

Results:

Audience feedback confirms that the powerful depiction of family violence successfully grabs their attention:

“I thought it was a home run. Hard topic to balance emotional and clinical and I thought you hit the mark.”

“The stories they portray hit home - both personally and professionally. They portrayed people and patients you have seen and known.”

“I have already begun to see the impact that the program has had on physicians and non-physicians alike.”

The emotional impact of the play along with the skills and support tools provided in the subsequent didactic sessions was able to produce a change in physician behavior measured as an increase in identification of DV cases by 48% in the subsequent 3 months. This program has been reproduced in 4 other medical centers with similar success.

Recommendations:

- Give ample warning prior to the presentation about the violent content. It can be devastating for a current or former victim to be confronted with this especially in a workplace setting.
- Have trained staff on-site for anyone who may need to talk to someone after seeing the play.
- The short discussion session after the play is important processing time.
- An expert panel discussion or victim testimonial, booths with local community agencies and posters to add to the experience.
- Equally successful with a variety of time allotments (1-3 hours).