national healthy marriage resource center

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center Webinar

March Webinar: Healthy Marriage Programs: Opportunities to Partner with Courts

March 31, 2011❖ 1:00 pm-2:30pm (EST)

Presenters:

Alicia Davis, J.D., Principal Court Management Consultant, National Center for State Courts

Lynda Williams, Drug Court Coordinator, Dallas County, TX

Ann Bruce, Program Manager, Building Healthy Marriages, Weld County, CO.

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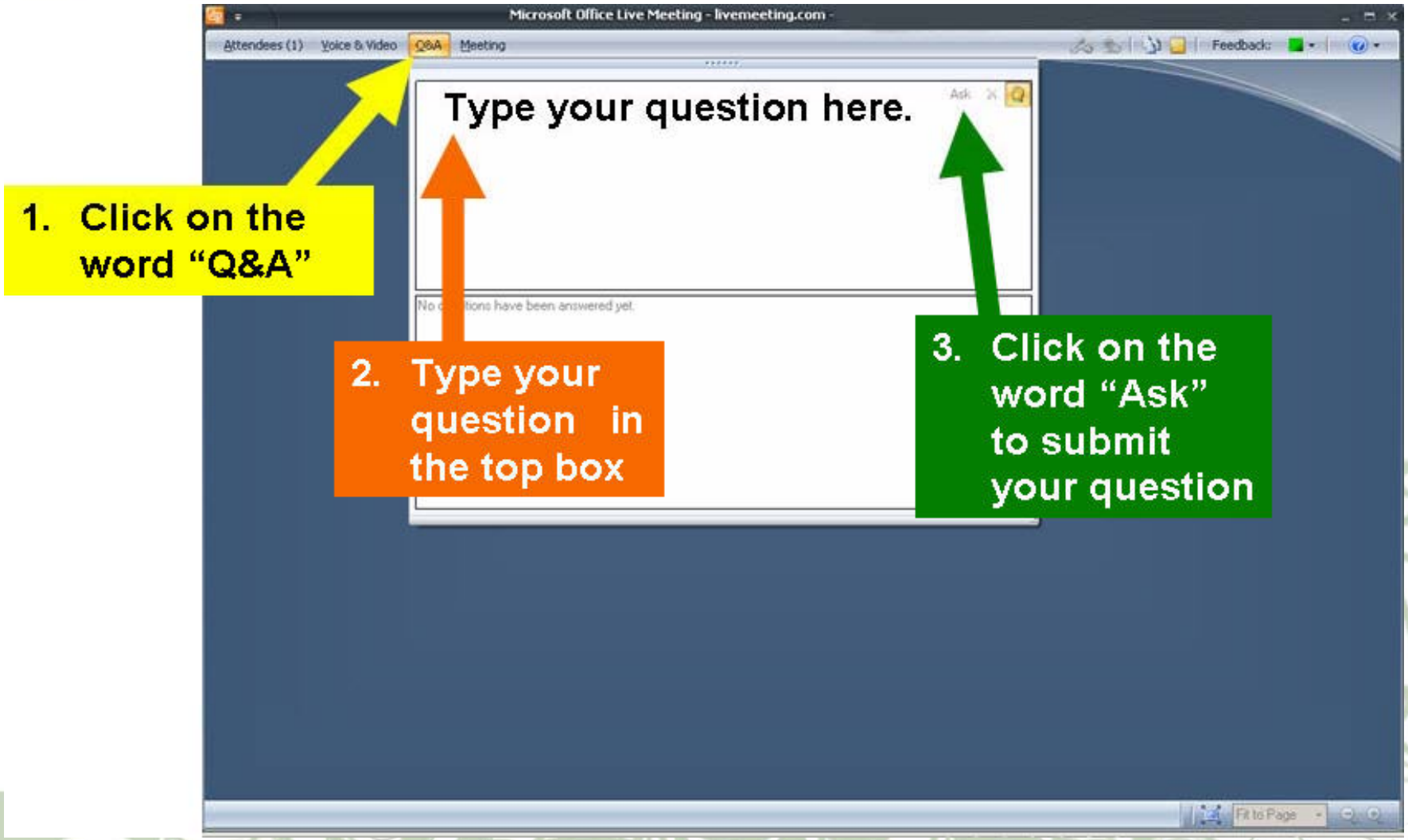
How to ask a question:



Forming Healthy Marriage Partnerships with Your Local Court

Alicia Davis, J.D.

Principal Court Management Consultant

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Providing Trusted Leadership and Proven Solutions to Courts

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Chief Justice receives O'Connor award

South Carolina Chief Justice Jean Hoefer Toal has been selected the first recipient of the NCSC's Sandra Day O'Connor Award for the Advancement of Civics Education, honoring her support of multiple programs that teach students how the courts work.

MORE >

Chief Justice receives O'Connor

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

NCSC can help you address challenges within your court in many ways.

BROWSE BY: TOPIC | STATE

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MY CENTER

Let's Discuss….

- The types of cases that family courts could refer to Healthy Marriage Programs
- How Healthy Marriage Programs can go about forming these partnerships with the courts or with particular judges
- Recognizing the individuality of every jurisdiction and court.

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The Most Promising Cases

- Legal Separation
- Divorce/Dissolution
- Truancy
- Delinquency
- Dependency and Neglect

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The Tricky Part

http://www.ncsc.org/information-and-resources/browse-by-state/statecourtwebsites.aspx

Strategies

- FREE Resource in bad budget times
- Parenting Classes are common
- Efficacy Rate
- Does the Judge have a right-hand person?
- Court administrator?
- Local Family Law/Child Law Bar Association?

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DALLAS COUNTY
JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center
2600 Lone Star Drive, Box 5
Dallas, Texas 75212

National Healthy Marriage Resource Center
Partnering with the Courts
March 31, 2011

Lynda Williams, LPC-S, LCDC
Drug Court Coordinator

Drug Court Diversionary Program

- Program falls under the umbrella of the Dallas County Juvenile Probation Department
- Dallas County Juvenile Department operates under the oversight of the Juvenile Board
- Board is comprised of District Judges, County Judges, County Commissioner and Juvenile Department Administration
- Is a diversionary program which is voluntary
- Length of stay is at least 3 months and no longer than 6 months
- Between 2008 and 2010, recidivism 6 months after successful program completion is 6%
- Program has a longstanding partnership with ANTHEM Strong Families in Dallas

Population Served

- Juvenile District Attorney refers youth to the program
- First time offense, misdemeanor drug offense
- Youth ages 10 to 17 years who live in Dallas County
- Many of the youth live in a single parent home
- Several live with grandparents or other family members

Program Description

- Associate Judge heads the Drug Court Team
- Program comprised of three phases
- Throughout the three phases, youth must:
  - complete a total of 10 hours of community service
  - attend school regularly
  - submit to regular and random urine screens
  - appear in court according to phase requirement
  - complete various homework assignments related to substance use
  - meet weekly with the assigned case manager
- Upon successful completion, the youth's record will be sealed

Program Goals

- Intervene in a youth's use of alcohol and other drugs
- Divert the youth from moving further into the Juvenile Justice System

Referrals to ANTHEM

- All youth in our program are referred to voluntarily participate in a Saturday workshop and be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- Families are referred to ANTHEM for the purpose of assisting them to improve communication within their family
- Groups are held to accommodate parents who speak only Spanish every other month

Benefits of the partnership

- The all day Saturday workshop is an opportunity for parents and youth to spend some positive time together and learn some skills related to conflict resolution, anger management, communication and family values and strengths
- Youth gain an understanding of what their parents' experience has been and likewise for the parents
- As a result, the likelihood of the youth being successful and not moving further into the juvenile system is enhanced
- Other relevant programs offered by ANTHEM are available to our participants

BUILDING HEALTHY *marriages*

Stronger Relationships. Better Lives.

Improving the quality of life in Weld County, one relationship at a time.

BHM Partners

- Weld County Department of Human Services
  - Grantee; Administration
- United Way of Weld County
  - Promotion, Special Events
- Community Mediation Project
  - Education: seminars, coaching
- University of Northern Colorado
  - Assessment; Research

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Within My Reach

- Single adults
- Developed by the makers of PREP
- Based on research that most singles aspire to be in a relationship or marriage
- Touches on what a healthy relationship should look like, life goals, and some co-parenting
- Most success seen with "at-risk" adults

BUILDING HEALTHY marriages

PREP

- Married or committed partners
- Outcomes measurements show effectiveness
- Touches on communication styles, conflict resolution, and the steps to creating a healthy relationship.

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Love Notes

- Young adults and teens
- Choosing healthy relationships
- Effective in helping teens make good choices and decreasing risky behavior.

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What BHM Offers…

"We have services for kids in Weld County but they are the basic psych groups. Building Healthy Marriages give something different, especially for girls. Anything involving relationships is beneficial for the girls."

Cheryl Boltz,

Weld County Probation Officer

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Incentives that would make a person want to sign up for our class

1) Is that it's a free class where several of the other choices have a cost associated with it.

2) In addition to receiving eight hours of community service for eight hours of a seminar
   a. a person might receive 2-3 hours for bringing a friend or partner.
   b. client could receive community service hours if they bring a family member to a class.

1) If the client is able to summarize what they learned at the class.

In order for a client to receive the community service hours, they must bring in a certificate of completion that all of our participants receive when they "graduate" from the class.

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Voluntary Status Protocol

- **Educate our Judges and parole officers that they cannot mandate a person or couple into our program.**
- **A client must have several program options that they can choose from under their own volition.**
- **Once at the seminar, they have the right to leave at any time. However, they would not receive the certificate of completion and therefore forfeit the community service hours.**

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Domestic Violence Protocol

- **DV protocol was developed with our local DV program and is reviewed annually by them.**
- **Have a staff member with extensive experience in working with families who have or are currently living with domestic violence in their relationships.**
- **Who will when appropriate make referrals to both treatment providers and victims services.**
- **All staff and educators must attend Domestic Violence training annually in order to maintain their ability to teach our classes and get paid.**
- **This training should be done in collaboration with your local Domestic Violence program**

BUILDING HEALTHY marriages

Through the Building Healthy Marriage program and other county programs Teri was able to put her life back together and become a healthy part of our community.

Todd Welch

BHM Educator

BUILDING HEALTHY marriages

Ann Bruce
Program Manager

Weld County Dept. of Human Services
brucexam@co.weld.co.us

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