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**NCALP grant from the HealthPath Foundation of Ohio
to foster collaborative community response to
families experiencing domestic violence**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Center for Adoption Law and Policy at Capital University Law School has been awarded a \$200,000 grant to support the work of the Ohio Intimate Partner Violence Collaborative (OIPVC), a cross-systems initiative aimed at minimizing trauma to children exposed to domestic violence.

The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio (HPFO), a \$24 million supporting organization of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, is committed to helping all Ohioans, regardless of status, wealth or circumstances, achieve their fullest health potential. Since 1999, HPF-Ohio has awarded nearly \$13 million in grants to address some of the most pressing, yet neglected, health issues faced by Ohio's vulnerable population -- access to health care, prevention of family violence, and preventive oral health.

The OIPVC began as part of Ohio's year-long pilot of the "Safe and Together™" model approach to reports of child abuse and neglect. The model, created by David Mandel & Associates LLC, utilizes multiple skills-based trainings to assist child protection workers in strengthening their assessment, client engagement, and interviewing skills for timely identification of intimate partner violence and for appropriate and adequate service recommendations.

In addition, the model builds bridges for cross systems collaboration by inviting community partners, including domestic violence advocates, shelters, juvenile and domestic relations courts, law enforcement, and service providers, to participate in training alongside child protection workers. It is anticipated that improved community collaboration, coupled with enhanced assessment and planning skills among child welfare professionals, will result in reduction of child trauma and increased opportunities to maintain children safe and together with their non-offending parents.

The OIPVC piloted Safe and Together™ training in four counties with promising results. Spurred by the positive feedback from the pilot counties and community partners, the OIPVC is expanding the training program statewide, using local trainers certified in the Safe and Together™ response.

The HPFO grant will make it possible for NCALP to continue to manage critical aspects of the OIPVC during the next two years. NCALP will administer the grant, coordinating

and overseeing the work of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network in relation to community assessment, readiness, and engagement activities. NCALP also will direct the work of a statewide intimate violence partners planning group in developing a model plan for collaborative response that can be replicated by counties statewide.

The OIPVC is a partnership of David Mandel & Associates, LLC; the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; the Supreme Court of Ohio Advisory Committee on Children, Families, and the Courts' Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency; the Ohio Domestic Violence Network; HealthPath Foundation of Ohio; and the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School.

Questions regarding the program can be directed to Theresa Wukusick, Executive Director of The HealthPath Foundation of Ohio (www.healthpathohio.org), at 513-241-2880, and Denise St. Clair, NCALP Executive Director, at 614-236-6593.

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