



# CONNECTIONS

MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

*Regardless of the safety concerns from Covid-19, social workers must remain engaged and connected with the families you serve. While you are out on the frontlines, we are here to **discover** and share new tools, hold forums to help you **manage the stress**, and support your ongoing learning while working from home.*

— Courtney & Lindley



## Blue Spiral Consulting Launches Website

[www.BlueSpiralConsulting.com](http://www.BlueSpiralConsulting.com)

We are excited to launch our newly revised website. We invite you to log on and take a look and let us know what you think. You can read all about us, see where we've trained across the country and get insights into the training options and services that we offer.



Make sure you check out our **Resources page**. We have articles to read, our favorite book recommendations and some resources for social workers during Covid-19.

We have shared a **Scaling for Safety** tool and a **Safety Planning Flow Chart** that you can download off our site. Keep checking back as we upload new resources or articles weekly during the Covid-19 crisis.

**On March 29th, we hosted a Covid-19 Support Call to our Signs of Safety jurisdictions.**



**Here's what participants said:**

*"This call was really helpful to hear from people in other counties and states. We are just getting started and there are so many unknowns. Nice to hear from others going through the same thing."*

— La Crosse Wisconsin Supervisor

*"Thank you for sending us really pertinent tools to assess safety with families with the additional concerns that the coronavirus has created. The words and pictures and scaling tool was really helpful."*

— Wilson County worker

*"I think it will be important to hear from social workers from other countries who are ahead of the US so we know what to expect and can prepare. Thank you for being that connection."*

— Program Manager

*Covid-19 is changing everything that we know. How we work. How we team. How we supervise. How we lead.*

Everyone is learning how to navigate working at home with your children, spouse, and even pets underfoot.

- ✦ Balancing the safety of your own family with the safety of vulnerable children and adults in your community
- ✦ Engaging with children and families and older adults in new ways.
- ✦ Finding creative ways to support critical decision making under less than ideal circumstances



**With all of that happening, we must all remember that this is the calm before the storm.**

- ✦ Reports have decreased because children aren't being seen in their communities.
- ✦ With families stuck at home, many children have lost the safe haven of school, guaranteed nutrition, and respite from the bad things that sometimes happen.
- ✦ Families are stressed to the max without the support of Grandparents, others or community resources they relied on



- ✦ Finances are dwindling and social supports are overwhelmed with demand.
- ✦ Substance abuse and domestic violence will increase under the stress of Covid-19.

# We are here for you

## Support on All Levels

### Frontline Professionals:

Support Calls

Tools

Safety Planning

### Managers and Supervisors:

Virtual Group Supervision

Virtual Teaming

Critical Incident Decision Making

### Leadership:

Protecting your Greatest Asset - Your Workforce

Revising Policy to Address Current Conditions

**We have the experience that you need to help you through this crisis. Here are ways we can help:**

#### Facilitation Skills

- ✦ We have experience navigating online platforms (Zoom, GoToMeeting, Microsoft Teams) and structuring effective meetings
- ✦ We offer a structured format (ORID) for leading virtual team meetings that provides support and keeps the focus on the emerging need



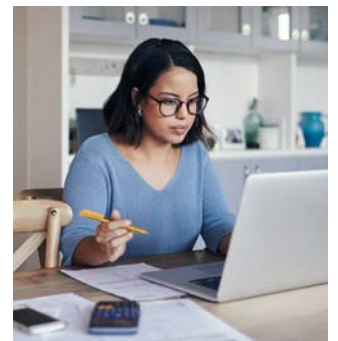
#### Supervision

- ✦ Group supervision can develop critical thinking in uncertain times, build confidence and train new staff simultaneously. Let us share with you a structure and get you started.
- ✦ Need a crystal ball to anticipate what's next? We'll bring in child welfare professionals all over the world who are ahead of the US curve and can give insight into to expect.



#### Frontline Professionals

- ✦ We're hosting regular support calls so you can hear what other workers are doing with families.
- ✦ Check out our website for safety planning tools and resources
- ✦ Specialized training such as — ***Spry Safety Planning under Covid-19***



#### Leadership

- ✦ Reviewing policy with regards to current conditions to protect your workforce and respond to families in crisis