



Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

**Briefing to the Defense Health Board
April 23, 2018**

*Office of Military Family Readiness Policy
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Military Community & Family Policy*



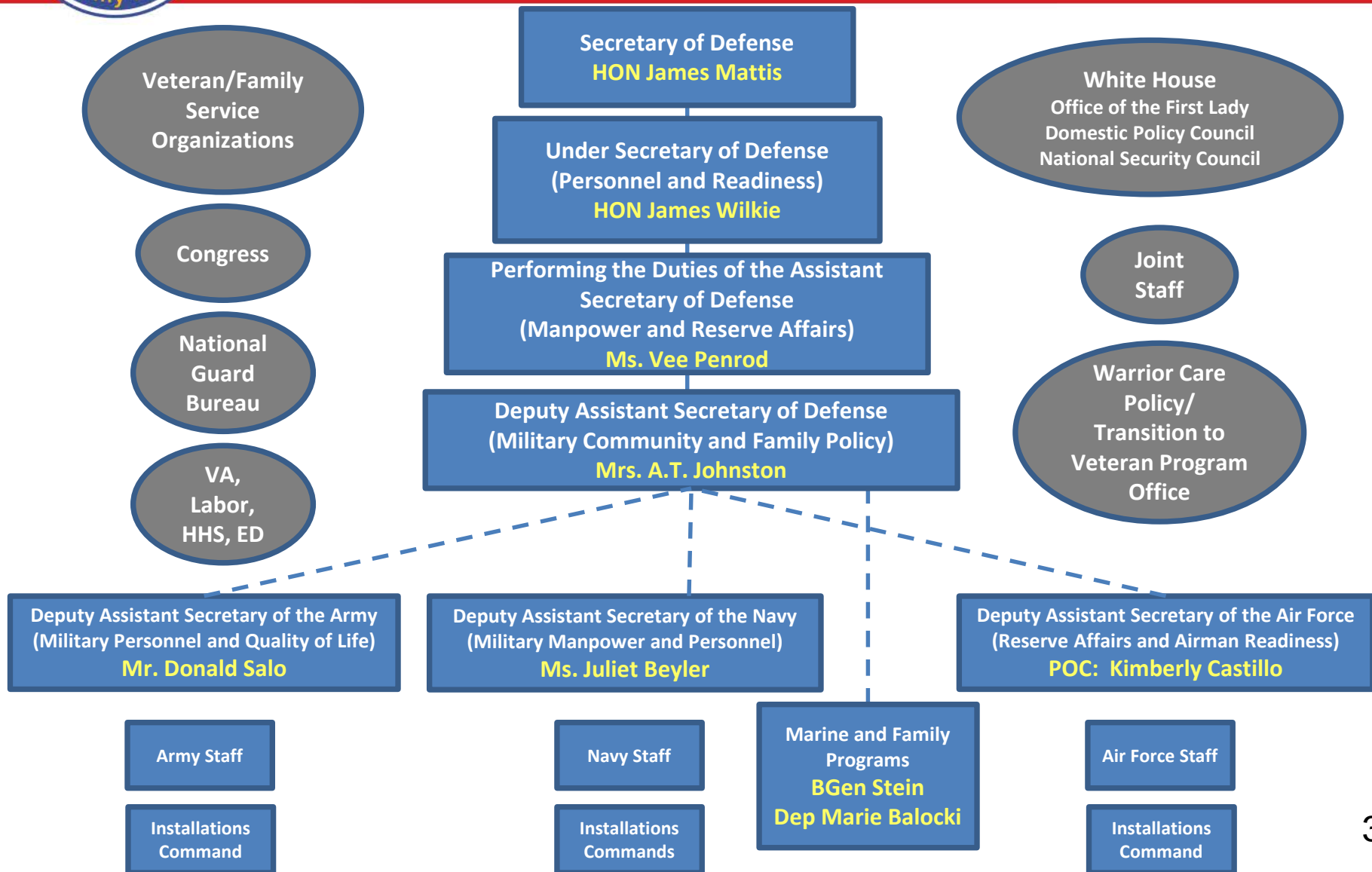


Purpose

To provide the Defense Health Board a general overview of the Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program



Family Support Relationships



Military Community & Family Policy



Policy Oversight

- Family Support Centers/Family Readiness
- Child Care Centers/Child and Youth Programs
- Casualty and Mortuary Affairs/Military Funeral Honors
- Family Advocacy Program
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Morale, Welfare, and Recreation
- Resale (Commissary and Exchange)
- Defense State Liaison Office

Execution

- Military OneSource
- Non-Medical counseling
- Spouse Education and Career Opportunities
- Military Families Learning Network (USDA)
- Community Capacity Building
- Military Family Readiness Council

Data Source: 2016 DoD Demographic Report. The National Guard and Reserve demographics are based on Selected Reserve members. Coast Guard Reserve members are excluded from these totals.



FAP Scope and Mission

- The Department of Defense (DoD) Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is congressionally mandated, and serves as the policy proponent for, and a key element of, the DoD's Coordinated Community Response system to prevent and respond to reports of child abuse/neglect and domestic abuse in military families
- FAP is located at every installation with command sponsored families, within and outside the continental United States
- FAP support, clinical, and case management services are provided to individuals who are eligible for care in military medical treatment facilities
- FAP is focused on prevention, rehabilitation, and family well-being, with over 900 licensed clinicians who provide case management and treatment



DoD Definition of Child Abuse

- From DoDI 6400.06, “The physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect of a child **by a parent, guardian, foster parent, or by a caregiver, whether the caregiver is intrafamilial or extrafamilial,** under circumstances indicating the child’s welfare is harmed or threatened. Such acts by a sibling, other family member, or other person shall be deemed to be child abuse only when the individual is providing care under express or implied agreement with the parent, guardian, or foster parent.”
- FAP uses the definitions of child abuse IAW 42 United States Code, section 5106g, Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), consistent with our federal partners in child protection.



DoD Definitions of DA and DV

- **Domestic Abuse (DA)** is a pattern of behavior resulting in emotional/psychological abuse, economic control, and/or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward a person who is: a current or former spouse, a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile
- **Domestic Violence (DV)** is the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person, or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is: a current or former spouse; a person with whom the abuser shares a child in common; or a current or former intimate partner with whom the abuser shares or has shared a common domicile
- Acts of domestic violence are addressed under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and/or state law



FAP Policies

- DoD Instruction 6400.01, Family Advocacy Program (FAP)
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 1, Family Advocacy Program (FAP): FAP Standards
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 2, Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 3, Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Clinical Case Staff Meeting (CCSM) and Incident Determination Committee (IDC)
- DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 4, Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Guidelines for Clinical Intervention for Persons Reported as Domestic Abusers
- DoD Instruction 6400.03, Family Advocacy Command Assistance Team (FACAT)
- DoD Instruction 6400.05, New Parent Support Program (NPSP)
- DoD Instruction 6400.06, Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel



Legislation

Federal:

- Public Law 97-114, enacted in 1982, directed DoD to establish a program to provide services to address problems of child and spouse abuse
- 34 U.S. Code § 20341 – Child Abuse Reporting
- 10 U.S. Code § 1787 – Child Abuse Reporting to Department of Defense
- Reporting on Allegations of Child Abuse in Military Families and Homes – FY17 NDAA Year (Public Law 114-328) Section 575, “Talia’s Law”



Legislation (cont.)

Federal:

- Requirement for Annual Family Advocacy Program Report Regarding Child Abuse and Domestic Violence - FY17 NDAA, Sec. 574; it also required coordination of release dates between SAPRO & FAP reports
- FY18 NDAA, Section 538 - "Inclusion of information in the annual SAPRO reports regarding sexual assaults committed by a member of the Armed Forces against the member's spouse or other family member"

State:

- Sharing of information with FAP: AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, ID, IL, IN, MT, NJ, OK, OR, SC, TX, VA, WA, WY

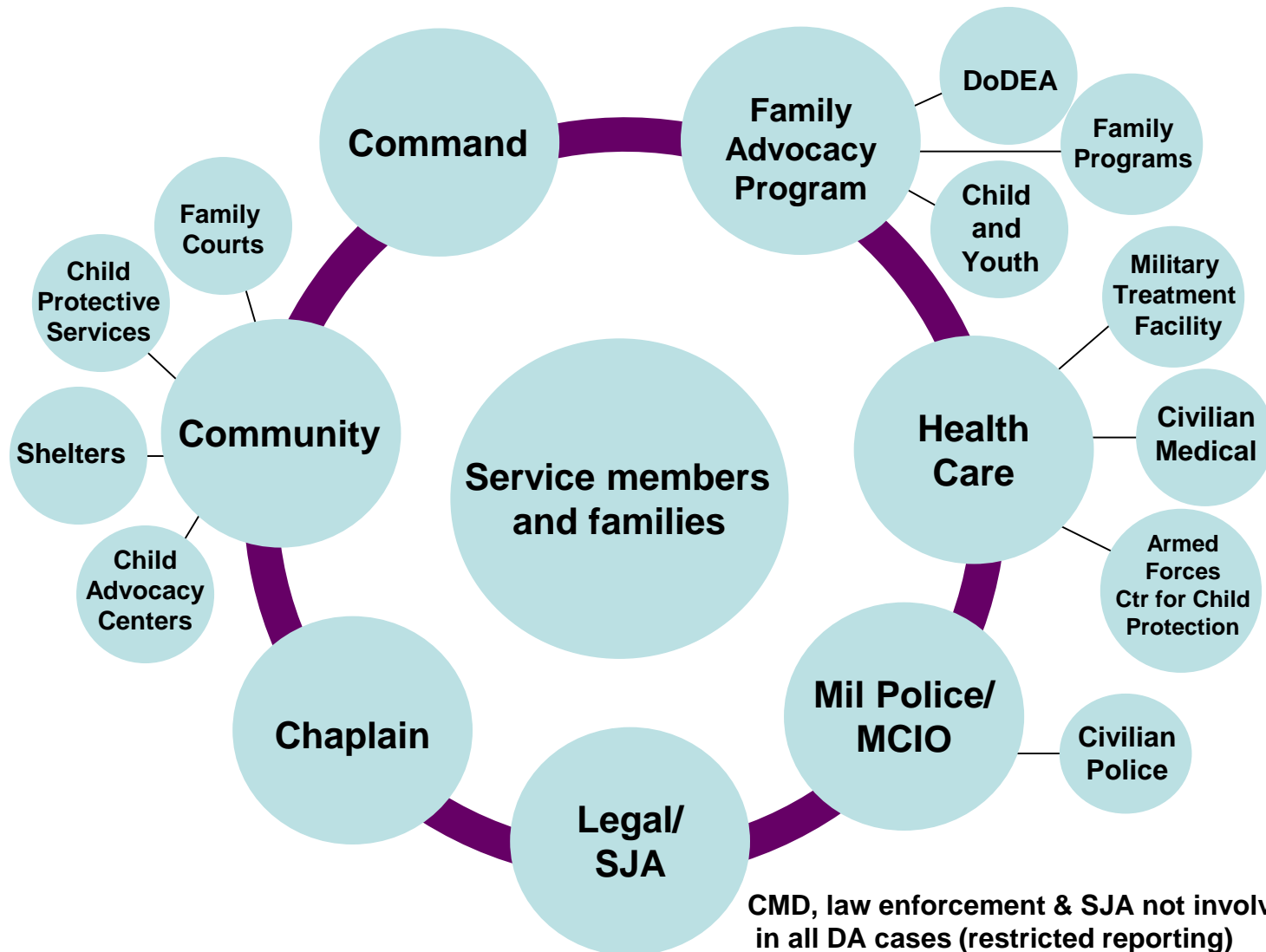


FAP Oversight Framework

- The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2011, Sec. 543, P.L. 111-383, required the Department of Defense to establish an oversight framework for domestic violence programs
- This framework provides consistency in FAP delivery across the Military Departments, and includes specific oversight actions to ensure compliance in the following areas:
 - **Budget**
 - **Policy**
 - **Legislation**
 - **Personnel**
 - **Compliance**
- Increased focus on prevention – Strategic Prevention Plan



Coordinated Community Response for Child Abuse/Neglect and Domestic Abuse





FAP Process

- FAP receives allegation of incident
 - FAP forwards all allegations to law enforcement
 - Commanders, law enforcement must refer ALL known/suspected child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse cases to FAP
 - Medical services are engaged for evaluation
 - All child abuse and neglect allegations are required to be reported to local Child Protective Services (CPS) for investigation and disposition
 - FAP is required to establish MOUs with civilian CPS and social service agencies. FAP manages child abuse cases in coordination with CPS
- FAP clinician performs psychosocial clinical assessment(s)



FAP Process (cont.)

- Incidents that meet a reasonable suspicion of child abuse/neglect and domestic abuse are reviewed by an Incident Determination Committee (a multi-disciplinary team) using standardized maltreatment definitions to determine if they meet the clinical criteria for abuse
- For an incident that meets the clinical criteria for abuse, a treatment plan is developed in the FAP Clinical Case Staff meeting
 - For an allegation of an incident that does not meet the criteria for abuse, the family is offered services (e.g., parenting classes, marital counseling), if they want additional support and resources
- Incidents that meet the criteria for abuse are recorded in the FAP Central Registry
- Victims in domestic abuse incidents are provided the option of making a “restricted report,” which allows them to receive advocacy and treatment services without involving command and law enforcement



Focus on Prevention

- Preventing child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse starts with healthy intimate relationships and safe, strong, resilient families
- DoD FAP Strategic Plan for Prevention guides the DoD and Services initiatives and actions
 - Emphasizes community awareness, command and professional training and family support
 - Stresses importance of collaboration and coordination with military and civilian components of the coordinated community response agencies
 - Supports the use of low stigma, evidence informed approaches that, to the extent possible, align with initiatives of our federal partners:
 - Families Overcoming Under Stress (FOCUS)
 - Military One Source-Non-medical counseling, education and support
 - USDA partnership--professional training, parent education, research, program evaluation



FAP Data/Trends

- FAP has a statutory requirement to deliver an annual data report to Congress by 30 April. FY17 report is currently being written.
- The slightly upward trend in the rate of child abuse and neglect incidents that met criteria from FY09 – FY14 has not continued in FY15 & FY16; rates have remained statistically consistent.
- FY16 rates of spouse abuse incidents and intimate partner abuse incidents have been stable since FY07; the number of incidents involving adult sexual abuse in FY16 (299) has grown slowly since FY09.



FAP Reviews and Research

- RAND Study – Improving Resources to Reduce and Remedy Violence and Maltreatment within Military Families
- Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Study – Military-related Risk for Child Neglect in DoD Families
- National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) – Military Report (in collaboration with SAPRO)
- DoD OIG Evaluation of Military Service Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic Abuse Incidents



DoD FAP Initiatives and Programs

- Coordinated Community Response to Child Abuse and Neglect and Domestic Abuse Integrated Project Team
- Defense State Liaison Child Welfare Initiative - Engagement with states to educate on need for legislation or policy requiring sharing of information between Child Protective Services and FAP
- Evidenced-based programs
 - Family Foundations – co-parenting program for new parents
 - Family Advocacy Academy on Child Traumatic Stress developed by National Child Traumatic Stress Network

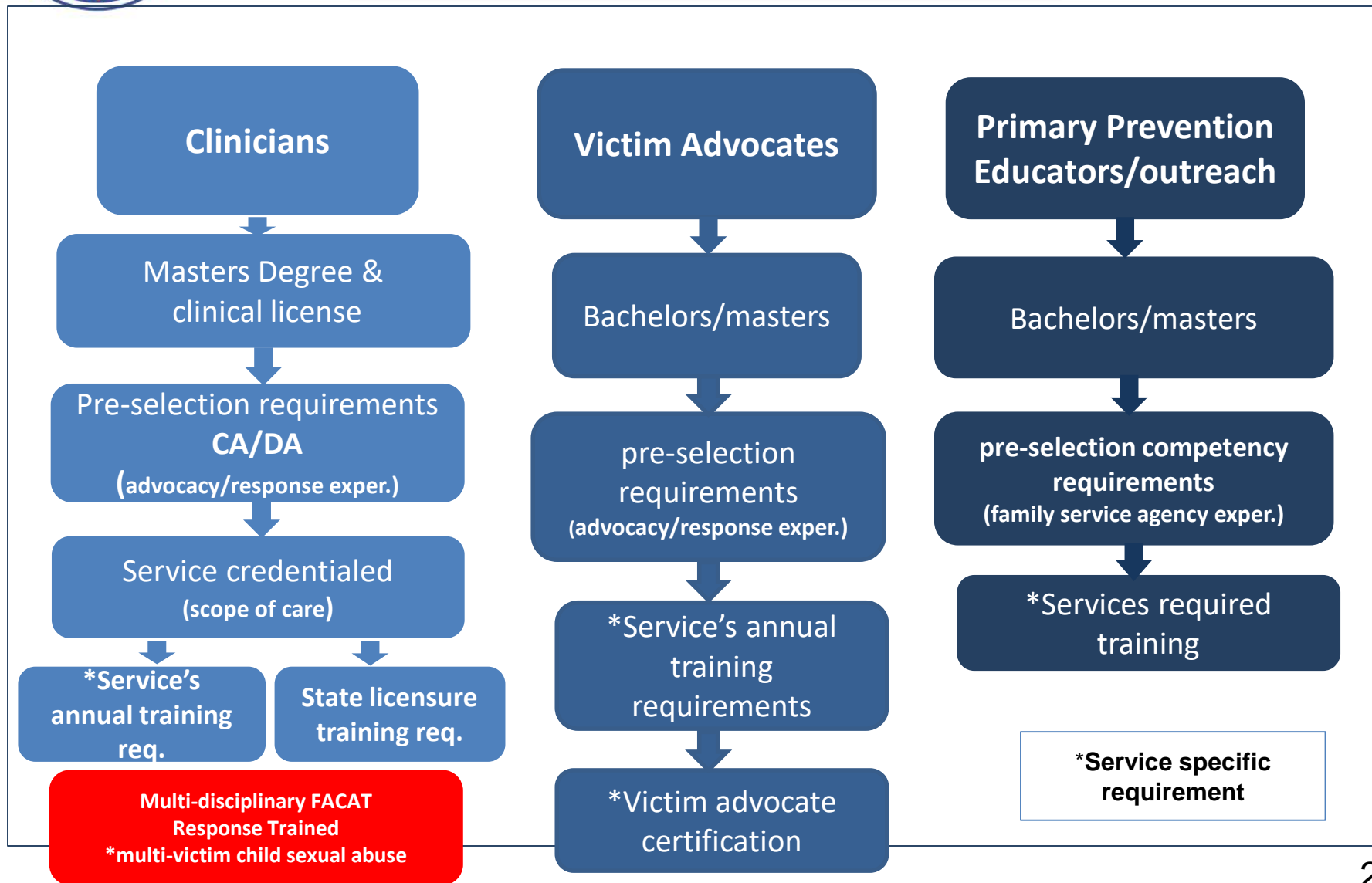


USDA Partnership Projects

- Research based tools:
 - Incident Severity Scales
 - Intimate Partner Physical Injury Risk Assessment Tool
- New Parent Support Program Continuous Quality Improvement
- Thrive – parenting program
- Training for Commanders and Leaders – DoD web-based training to supplement Service-required training for leadership (in progress)



FAP Personnel: Competency, Training and Certification Requirements





Thank you for your support of
military families.

Questions?