

**Episode 61 - Dr. Lenore Walker: The System is Broken: Challenges to Trauma-Informed Approaches with Parents and Children Affected by Domestic Violence**

[00:00:08] Welcome to living proof a podcast series of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work at [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu). We're glad you could join us today. The series Living Proof examines social work research and practice that makes a difference in people's lives. The University of Buffalo School of Social Work is making a difference every day through that generation and transmission of knowledge promotion of social justice and service to humanity. We offer MSW and PHD programs continuing education programs and credits online courses licensor exam preparation professional seminars and certificates and much much more. To learn more about the UB School of Social Work please visit [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu). This is your host Adjoa Robinson. Lenore Walker is known as the mother of the battered woman syndrome. Her pioneering research in the late 1970s named the psychological phenomenon that has assisted millions of people in understanding why battered women have such difficulty in getting out of domestic violence relationships. Today Dr. Walker is the principal psychologist at Walker and Associates providing assessment for and consultation with attorneys whose clients have been involved in trauma from domestic violence. Dr. Walker is also director of domestic violence Institute and a full professor of psychology at Nova Southeastern University where she coordinates the forensic psychology concentration in the doctoral program. Charles Ewing is a forensic psychologist attorney and a SUNY distinguished service professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo where he serves as vice dean for legal skills at the Law School.

[00:02:12] Dr. Ewing is the author or co-author of 10 books and over 70 articles related to violent behavior dangerousness expert testimony and other forensic psychology issues. He has been honored for his contributions to forensic psychology and the field of criminal law education doctors Walker and Ewing spoke with Dr. Nancy Smyth professor and dean of the University at Buffalo School of Social Work about current challenges to a trauma informed approach to the health and safety of children posed by broken family court system a political system of mental disorder typology and a co-op to fathers rights movement. I'm Nancy Smyth here at the University of Buffalo and we have Dr. Chuck Ewing and Dr. Walker are doing here in bankruptcy's university proper law school and is going to be working with me interviewed Dr. Walker and Dr. Walker. Thank you so much for agreeing to be part of this podcast. My pleasure. Let me start off doctor Ewing. You've been thinking about a lot of things prepping for this interview. Oh yes well first well let me tell you what you already know and that is how much you've influenced my professional work and therefore my life. So it's a great honor and pleasure to speak with you today. And I must say this is a chance that you always know what's going on especially in the legal areas like accountants from time to time when we do get together the same. One of the things that has impressed me of late is I've noticed or I would say over the last decade or so maybe even a little bit longer a different kind of news of battered woman syndrome in the court.

[00:03:57] I know that when you pioneered in this area you were doing a lot of battered woman homicide cases and that's initially what attracted me to the area. But as I worked in the area now for a couple of decades it seems to me that the work has shifted and broadened a lot. And I wonder if you would seem to find yourself involved in cases outside the battered spouse homicide area and more into custody divorce child abuse child sexual abuse crimes cases. Absolutely absolutely. I'd like to believe that the homicide cases are not being prosecuted as much as they used to be and many of them will accept a plea to a lesser charge rather than a murder charge but perhaps a manslaughter charge. And I've even had some where they now pressed their case speaks and say really to the police and that prosecutor's office really understood that it was a case of self defense. So we don't need to be in the court because that's you know going with that if they understand yeah

that's what I have. I'd like to think that that reflects a better understanding of domestic violence more generally in society. I get called I don't have the opportunity or time to do as many of the cases as I would like but get called a lot on cases involving divorce grounds for divorce parental alienation child custody issues involving battered woman syndrome. I wonder if that's been your experience as well. Phil my one day a week in private practice because you know the other four days as you I'm a professor now. No. I could fill my whole entire week with testifying in child custody disputes.

[00:05:43] I really do believe that the family court system is broken in this country but also in other countries that I lecture and that we're just not recognizing the damage that is done the psychological damage is done to children and to mothers who try to protect them and fathers who are demanding their rights without really understanding how they need to parent the child. The U.S. much use of the so called Parental Alienation Syndrome in your work. Well I do see a lot of people who want to use Parental Alienation Syndrome. Now the proponents have dropped the syndrome and they're now calling it parental alienation disorder. And there is a large group that have petitioned the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition task force to include it as a disorder of Jonathan. I wanted to ask you about that when you thought about there. I know that over the years you've been involved heavily with DSM sometimes successfully sometimes not successfully. Absolutely. And I wondered what you thought of the effort to include this parental alienation disorder. Yeah I would love to hear about that from both of you. I'm sitting here trying to figure out how this can be a mental disorder but knowing that the DSM is as much a political process. Anything else about to hear your take on it. Well I think that's exactly the truth. The DSM is indeed a political process and it may be working to our favor in this particular case because they have to have at least a little bit of research that shows that it's actually a disorder and while there's no question that in the middle of a tightly contested divorce with parents that don't get along.

[00:07:35] There's all kinds of behaviors that are embarrassing and shameful that happened to the child but it doesn't necessarily produce a disorder. And of course the battered women community and the sexual abuse community very nervous that shouldn't be labeled as a disorder rather than as a phenomenon that takes place during the tendency of the litigation. Then people are going to talk about the abuse it's going to drag it right back into the closet again when they go through divorce. And already you can see it's starting to happen where lawyers are advising their clients not to try to protect the child because if they do they're going to lose custody totally. Well that's what I was trying to think about from the standpoint of a woman who has a child who you know I believe are sexually abused by her dad and I'm going to try to protect that child. How is that going to not look like alienating a relationship when I'm trying to protect a hard distinction to sort of figure out exactly and people who are being asked to figure it out. Judges and attorneys and many psychologists that are not trained in trauma don't know how to figure it out. But they see behavior that is not nice behavior and they say oh that's what's causing it rather than looking at the possibility that the child's reactions are due to. And these are children who don't want to be with the other parent. And it's almost always the father that the child at least in the cases I work on that they don't want to be with.

[00:09:07] And these are fathers who have been violent and the child knows that they may never not have been violent towards the child themselves but they have been violent towards the mother and the child knows that as well. And so even if they weren't sexually abused and you sometimes cannot prove one way or the other. The fact is the child needs to be protected and the father needs to develop better parenting skills. But we never get to that point because we're busy finding out whether who should have 50 percent or 51 percent time and part of why I say the term is broken is because so much of it is also tied to how much child support money gets paid. So the more time The Father requests with the child the less child support payment he has to make it a system that really

hasn't been examined in a very long time I know the financial part was often tied together with the amount of time spent because so many fathers were abandoning children back in the 1970s. But that's no longer occurring. I wonder how much good psychologist we really do in a broken system like that would we're interested in your take on that. It seems to me sometimes we may actually be cooperative and we maybe become part of the problem rather than the solution.

[00:10:28] The problem when I see that all the time I just wrote an article that's published in The Journal of Child Custody about that damage from parental alienation distorting does get into the DSM 5 and Pepitone it down because many of them my colleagues that I work with are appeasing the court system and fear that the judges won't read it if it really says what they don't want to know that this system is broken or if they do want to know if they believe that they have a way to fix it. What do you think needs to happen to fix the system right now. You know I don't know. Sometimes I think we need to go back to the attendees doctrine but you know some of the people that are at of Parental Alienation Syndrome that fathers is. And there are some men who are doing a wonderful job raising children and should continue to do that. I really don't know how you separate it out. We live in a world where people band together for a variety of reasons and one cause. And I think that's what's happened in this area. Ironically I see kind of a tie a loose tie between parental alienation syndrome and battered woman syndrome. And it's this. People ask me Do I believe in parental alienation and I say Hell yes I've seen it within they say to me Well do you believe that there is a parental alienation syndrome. And I say no because I haven't seen empirical evidence to suggest that there there is no legitimate syndrome. And I think back to 20 years ago or even more and I'm sure you go back even further than that with us that people would have said the same thing about battered women syndrome. We all have worked with many battered women but you really coined the term and really led the fight for recognition of something called battered woman syndrome. And I wonder how important is it to call something a syndrome in order to have an accepted by the courts. But second we use the term syndrome abuse and misuse.

[00:12:38] My thinking also of child sexual abuse accommodation syndrome it's syndrome has almost become a nasty word. Well that's true. I mean and we have all kinds of jobs was an attempt to get premenstrual syndrome as a defense for a murderous rage that something might have gone into and committed homicide. It depends on what you need it for. I think I was very naive in those days. There was so little literature out there about battered women and all of them. The literature that I found talked about women as being masochists and the women who got battered. There was something wrong with them and some goal was to try to make it clear that whatever was wrong with them. And certainly there are psychological issues that we work with. It comes to the battery not from that person into a psychic makeup. I agree. I note though that it's interesting that I think you were able to succeed to the extent that you were able to early on partly because of that word syndrome because it gave its legitimacy. I happen to believe it worth it. As you well know having fought the battles in court personally. There were a lot of people who disagreed with that. You feel like that's changed that you don't have to fight that battle anymore. The battle is a different beast of scrap it out in the court very different battles. I think back in those days when we were talking about psychological defense a concept that I truly believe in. But the courts have never. You were certainly one of the proponents and I was just nervous that the court would it would go so far they wouldn't accept anything.

[00:14:24] Could you focus a little more about psychological suppliments what that is for a non-legal audience here. Well from my perspective and I sort of built this on words were I propose that in these battered woman homicide cases that the courts consider not only the physical battering but the emotional harm that was being done to battered women and that they recognize something that I called psychological self-defence and that is. I had to define it fairly narrowly but essentially someone who if they didn't use deadly force their selfhood their psychological self was threatened with annihilation. And as Lenore indicated it never never took off it never caught on. I think in

some of the cases that I've been involved in and perhaps some of yours when you were the jury bought that even though it was never really presented to them as a viable legal defense they understood what I was saying or they understood what new or other experts were saying along those lines. But I have to tell a story that you may or may not remember but when I first talked to you about this mean if you had read what I wrote and you said yes we thought it was great. And I ask you why and you said something to the effect that this made you look a lot saner. I don't remember that. I'm sure you do that I guarantee it. I mean I remember that vividly he i that as a compliment it was meant if I said it that way I'm sure it was a Bramston.

[00:16:03] Because it's true that so many we have suicides have battered women many of whom we know well now that occurred because they need some control over what's happening to them and the only control they see themselves as having is to kill because he's going to kill them and they don't want to give him that ultimate control of them or they end up in psychiatric hospital. Exactly. From him. And you know where I see it all the time where it really really would be helpful is juveniles who kill an abusive parent. Because for many of them they don't do it at the point of battering incident. They do it at the point that the parent grounds them in a horrendous way. You know you're never going out for the rest of your life. And the youth feels totally annihilated because that task of essence of course is to build relationships with other peers. I see that in those cases. And they're very very difficult to prove and difficult to get juries to believe that these kids deserve not to be prosecuted as murderers but rather as at least some form of self defense. And part of another problem with that is that many of these kids are also very psychologically damaged. And so the average person is frightened that if they find that guilty of homicide or a lower level or they put them in juvenile rather than in adult court and that they're going to be let loose in rampage of the community so public safety is a big issue as well with those cases less so of course the battered women have killed defense. But what I found and I don't know who you have who is killing your parents is sort of the West taboo.

[00:17:59] I mean if you can do whatever you want pretty much in our society and you can throw yourself on the mercy of the corporate killing a parent even an abusive parent. It's a tough sell to try to explain that to a jury. Yes. The tough sell is when a mother kills the baby. Those cases have similar dynamics in them in that the at least the cases I worked on and maybe the ones you do check these are women who have psychological issues where the baby is never considered as a separate person. They are considered as part of themselves. And so in a sense they're really killing themselves a part of themselves by doing that. But I've also had some cases where they've been battered women and their women are terrified that the anger is also going to hurt the baby. And so they do it out of some misguided but understandable sense of protection of the child. That makes me think of another issue to be interested in your take on as I've seen here are these cases but I still see there are a number of so-called failure to protect cases where abused women are indicted or charged along with their abusers for failing to protect their children from the abuser. Yes I think it's also I wonder why but thinking about it I also see a fewer number of those cases than I used to see. I'm not quite sure why. I guess I would hope that it's due to your work and the other work that's been done to educate the public and maybe prosecutors as well understand what's going on in those cases.

[00:19:37] It's interesting the what we are seeing here in Florida is an increased number of cases batterers who kill the woman and the children at the point of separation. And that's very scary. We just had four in the last month in Broward County which is Fort Lauderdale is located in one of the other professors here on the faculty with at Nova Southeastern University. He's also a police officer. And so we're going to be doing some research on these kinds of homicide suicide cases and total family annihilation cases. I know from your work that you've often said and you've demonstrated that probably the most dangerous time for abused means when he is trying to we. So I think that that's an interesting connection. I don't work on a lot of familiar side bases but I must admit that I

haven't made that connection. So I think that's that's really valuable work to pursue. Well thank you I were very interested in and police officers here are as well. We have a wonderful unit that cross different communities where we do a lot of training at active NFL. There's a lot of the training and hostage negotiations. But many of these cases may not recognize the seriousness of them and so they don't train the officers that are going to go out to these cases in the hostage negotiating. Some of them happened so fast you couldn't even get there even if you had the unit. A very scary cases. I don't know if there's an upswing or just never know exactly because there's so many other variables that can interact. The economy certainly is one of them.

[00:21:28] There's also the role of the media covers the some by the media contagion effect which you get with certain types of suicide and homicide as well. I'm curious what your experience and what your thoughts are about how knowledgeable the Family Court system really is about trauma and its impact the amount of knowledge. In my experience is minimal very minimal every now and then I come across a judge who really has been interested in it but for most of them judicial training I think goes against a lot of what you have to believe. A domestic violence is counter intuitive. It's just not fair like you want to believe in fairness and Family Court is a court of equity. It's host to be fair but it's not fair. If you say this person gets a present Decision-Making of children and this person gets zero that may not be fair. But when you can't one person holds back and doesn't make appropriate decisions. It's not. Children grow up too quickly. It's about time enough to work that out. And none of our methodology. No mediation no parenting coordinators none of em and we keep building new and new training for professionals to work with these folks. And it's always the same folks it's always the folks that have what Janet Johnson likes to call the family discord people but there really domestic violence people. I don't know what's happening in other areas of the country but I can tell you with the budget cuts going on here with the police pikemen and prosecutors offices they are losing the very personnel that we've trained why the domestic violence victim witness people.

[00:23:31] And so we don't have people who were training people to be fair when we really need them to be to recognize danger to recognize danger and the impact of the power imbalance that's been there with the trauma. What about those who are right now more and more court personnel are recognizing domestic violence. Intimate partner violence but they're not they don't know what to do with it. If they don't have hired evidence then a child has been physically or sexually abused they don't see the impact on the child psychologically. And I just read an article recently that talked about the higher percentage of cases of serious mental illness including schizophrenia that we see in children who have experienced child sexual abuse. They came from a large study of about 2000 cohorts from Australia. So I mean those of us who work in the area we know that but it's very difficult to get the courts to understand. I get to all the time but he didn't beat up the child the job didn't have to go to the hospital. There's my understanding though now a growing body of literature that indicates that even just witnessing domestic violence the psychological impact of that are actually more severe than being physically abused. They certainly can be. The impact is there is very serious and of course we'll see it in many of the cases that get labelled parental alienation or that cases get labeled Chow's and by proxy as the mother label that is used I see as a defence. I don't know if you see it. This is not physical Munchausen where the parent is found injecting bad things into the child or doing physical harm to the child.

[00:25:27] It is psychological Munchausen where it's claimed that usually the mother is claiming that this child sexual abuse. And because there can't find clear physical evidence of it they then claim that she's doing it just because she wants the psychological intention with combating all these defenses. And I'm sure if we unless the courts are really willing to go back and take away those presumptions of joint custody I mean I think the presumption of joint custody and the presumption of the friendly parent did get more responsibility are two very damaging presumptions in the law that he would resign. I think in a positive way but not everybody can do joint. Raising the child

should be determined on a case by case basis. I don't know how much either of you are familiar with the international movement for child rights but I'm curious about this is again a political process that is partly influenced by people coming together I think you said earlier to represent their interests when it seems that there is a movement underway to better represent the interests of children. I wonder what your thoughts are about that and how that could help or hurt the types of situations that we've been talking about. I have heard about it through the International Women Judges Association because they've been promoting it in several countries now including Israel and one of my good friends is that the two shared the committee that rewrote all of the laws in six major areas to give children legal rights and she says it's working very well. I think you know that you don't see some of the possible downsides but I'm very much a proponent of it here in South Florida.

[00:27:21] We do have we give children legal standing in two situations one if their parents or their rights are about to be terminated and the other is if the child is about to be sent to a residential treatment center that they are allowed to be represented in our legal office represents them. I chair the forensic concentrations here at CPS and we are practicing students work for legal aid in cases so they actually do evaluations then at no cost. I might add and we'll write reports and if requested testify in dependency. Usually it's in dependency court and the judges are very supportive to what we have to say. Sometimes we agree with the department that Family Services but sometimes we disagree with them and we do the valuations for DCF as well who are actually doing them for the Guardian program that works with D.C. but practically we're actually working with the DCF worth it. So I think that many more people not just doing the evaluations but providing income Inforum treatment and I know it has issued a requirement for training. We've been asked some of the. But you know if you have a broken system or the training you do isn't going to fix those presumptions. It isn't going to fix the family court judge. Our family and our dependents put our separate but in many communities they are the same. The training that you do I assume from what you're saying is primarily mental health professionals and not legal persons are about. Well it's interesting if it's mostly mental health professionals trying to get to the legal professionals in the United training that the courthouse the dependency judges put together on trauma and they had a better now and a half to talk about treatment.

[00:29:30] There were good 700 people who were there. I just came back from Washington D.C. where they're actually going to be emphasizing trauma and justice as a focus for noble substance abuse services administration. So they're interested in and bringing in trauma and more into the court. Well I think that's a good step in the right direction. We we run two mental health courts here one for misdemeanors and one for felonies and we bring just omma into that as well. We work very closely with the judges and we're in the jails where our students are providing a some people would call it an annualized treatment program called the STEP program or Survivor and therapy empowerment program. And it's a 12 session program. It's been a really interesting challenge to adapt it to a jail population because they're in and out of the jail all the time. So when you say 12 sessions you're not going to start with one and go all the way through to 12. Some people are going to come. It's the reason people come in at 7:00. It's been a very interesting challenge. More now modifying the pope in the juvenile detention center. That's even a bigger challenge because most of the kids who are there for three weeks have you found that our immigration laws and particularly the way they're being enforced have an effect. Domestic violence child abuse spouse abuse and the way it is or isn't reported as a reason that went to court.

[00:31:03] Well I haven't decided where I'm finding it is that many people pled guilty to a child abuse charge many years ago and they're just now being detained by the immigration authorities and they had no idea that that was going to impact on their ability to remain in this country. I testify on that in immigration hearings where somebody is married to an abusive partner and they then use the Violence Against Women Act. You know I've seen some abuses of it but most of the time it's only worked quite well. And this is specifically in immigration court. Yes. Well immigration court

can't use it as much. For example they've tried to introduce my testimony and asylum hearing they have not had great luck with that although we're having better results. It's like in the beginning with battered women syndrome the testimony is denied. And then it goes up but people and the immigration court are allowing a rule and it has to come in who are kidding me just sort of sit back and recap my understanding of sort of where things are in this where this very challenging area. We have a very broken system Family Court. And while there sounds like there's a huge need for educating the court personnel legal personnel involved in this there is an essential value conflicts between the trauma informed perspective and the presumptions within the legal system as it relates to family court and custody cases and other family court cases that be correct. Yes I think it would be very.

[00:32:46] So maybe the best we can hope for is educating people who then recognize a need to rework the system in some way but they're not going to have a desire to rework the system if they don't see this conflict and the work that you've been following is some of your international colleagues to rewrite laws to protect child right. Maybe helpful or hopeful step in this direction although that still stays with the presumptions of the system that just adds a new stakeholder in a new set of rights to consider. But certainly as I listened to both of you talk I'm left with this impression that children are the ones who lose out in these situations the most. I think that's very true. And these children grow up to be adults and there's some early research and it hasn't been replicated but it's still important to think about and that is in one study boys who witnessed or were supposed to their fathers abusing their mothers were 700 times more likely to use violence in their own lives when they grew up. And if they also were abused it raised the risk to 1000 times the child who was not so exposed or abused. Now I mean any other disease that had that kind of statistics attached to it we would quarantine people neediest. If we give the abuser power continued power over the child and the mother how far behind the curve. Do you think the United States is if at all. Are there other. Are there other nations that are doing a better job of this than we are. Well I think we're doing a good job in certain aspects. I think have been doing a pretty good job with restraining orders. We've been doing a pretty good job in sheltering from of battered women that we can afford to shelter than other countries. I think the children's rights group have a number of countries that I know about Israel.

[00:34:41] I know Australians in the countries as well that has had to pass some of the laws though you know there are the countries that are taking it seriously and there are many other countries that Pleven except that domestic violence is illegal. We're pretty far along in that particular area. All along he says it's a long way to go. One of my good friends often would say you know you have two eyes one to look backwards and see how far we've come and the other to look for it. Vincenzo we still have a long way to go. Third I would like to propose here would be looking at what the current forces are in terms of how they're challenging us about where we need to go and you said something earlier that I was curious about groups of people organizing to sort of represent themselves which is certainly part of what happens when the democracy over time recognizing that you're not a political scientist. I would like your opinion because of the position you've been and I think you're uniquely qualified to talk about your observations. What role has the fathers rights movement in this country played in sort of laying the groundwork for what you're trying to deal with in the courts at this point. I think the father's rights movement allowed itself to be co-operative by abusive parenting and that's very sad. As a feminist we have been absolutely wanting fathers to take a good part in child raising because if we don't share our child raising tasks very selfishly we'll never going to be able to get women to be able to take equal positions in the workplace.

[00:36:26] It's absolutely essential we also know that health for children to have two good parents who are doing the work. And I see that in many educated and police particularly college educated families really try to share a lot of the parenting responsibilities. So the fathers rights movement was one that so many of us supported initially because it was getting the courts to accept that fathers

can raise children just like mothers can raise children etc. But abusive fathers have taken that over. All you have to do is go on the internet and look on some of the Web sites and the hate and anger that is expressed there it's frightening it's very frightening and it's pushing the psychologist right out of this. I have testified on behalf of two different psychologists now in two different states where licensing board psychology licensing boards have had grievances filed by fathers rights groups where these people hadn't even seen the child. They just give people who come to this site ammunition and it's unfortunately used by people who have either mental health problems themselves or are just very angry vindictive people. I was curious about that because I've heard some pieces about colleagues and it reminds me a little bit of what I remember happening around the world memories and your movement and therapist were working with adult survivors of abuse that in many areas of the country people just stopped taking those cases on before we find that here today and that it sounded like there might be some elements of that happening now around abuse kids who were you know in these custody sorts of situations and so what you have is a class of people that start to be denied access to care because of the larger political forces.

[00:38:30] And I think that is true and I think that is happening. I see that in our students. I don't know if you see it in some of your students. They come in very eager to work in these fields and then boom they don't. Yeah I think I have seen some of that and it scares me that the the social worker in me that wants to fight for social justice issues wonders if there isn't a legal way to take that sum up. No I would like to do that because it's one of the things we have attempted to educate some of the Greek people who serve on the licensing boards. We published a book called Surviving the licensing board complaint and it's one of the areas we really did look at and that's the number of those complaints really gone up in recent Well I think there more in that area you know child custody and child protection has always been an issue for complaints. I don't know if it's going up or not but certainly we're seeing more of this. I've pretty well stopped doing those kinds of evaluations because partly because of that partly just because of the emotional wear and tear and aging on my part. But it's they are very very difficult cases. And I think that we're right to ever do another one. There would be only there is a witness for the court. Yeah I'm not sure that that protects you chuck but I've found is the most protective is you don't do it yourself.

[00:40:03] You have to have psychologists opinions so that it isn't just one person they have to take on too it's the reason that it's a little bit more complex. I think that's a great idea. Obviously the cost is outrageous of course. So it is denying people the right. Well we have covered a huge amount of territory here. I'm curious if there's anything that you would like to add. Dr. Walker I don't think so. I think we really have covered quite a lot. Well thank you so much for taking the time to talk to a doctor Ewing as well I feel special privileged to be able to have both of you here. Well it's been a pleasure for me as well and so great that you're taking on a project like this. Great. We take them on and then we see where they can go and this is a particularly important part as the things I'm looking forward to getting out and getting feedback both from people interested in social work but also I hope in law to get the word out there a little more about the important work that you're doing and saying but especially the important line of work that you've been doing for so many years. So you much in on and it's great to talk to you. It was great. The questions are just so right. Right. They should be. So it's been a pleasure. You've been listening to doctors and Lenore Walker and Charles Ewing discuss current challenges to a trauma informed approach to the health and safety of children posed by a broken family court system a political system of mental disorder typology and co-opt it. Fathers rights movement. Thanks for listening.

[00:41:36] And join us again next time for more lectures and conversations on social work practice and research. Hi I'm Nancy Smyth Professor Indian at the University of Texas School of Social Work. Thanks for listening to our podcast. For more information about who we are our history our programs and what we do we invite you to visit our website at [www.socialwork.buffalo.edu](http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu). At UB we are living proof that social work makes a difference in people's lives.



