Date

Name

Address

Dear Name:

 Nationally, 60% of our children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse. Forty percent were direct victims of two or more violent acts. Repeated or prolonged exposure to violence and trauma seriously undermines children’s ability to focus, behave appropriately, and learn in school; often leading to school failure, truancy, suspension or expulsion, dropping out or involvement in our juvenile justice system.

 We have an opportunity to help children exposed to violence through improved communication and collaboration between law-enforcement, schools, and mental health providers. The West Virginia Children Exposed to Violence Initiative is an opportunity to prevent children’s exposure to violence, mitigate negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence, and increase knowledge and awareness of this issue.

 I write to invite you to a workshop titled “Breaking Silos: Handle With Care.” This workshop offers innovative best practices for helping to mitigate the negative effects experienced by children’s exposure to trauma and builds upon the success of proven programs throughout the country. We have the opportunity to implement such a program in Name County.

 I urge you to plan to set aside a couple hours on Day, Date, at Time, to participate in this workshop at Location of Meeting. Our presenters include Chad Napier, Appalachian HIDTA, Tracy Dorsey-Chapman, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Victim Witness Coordinator, Andrea Darr, WV Center for Children's Justice, and Janet Allio, RN, BSN, MA, School Nurse in Kanawha County.

 Please let us know of your plans to attend by emailing Coordinator Name or Assistant at Coordinator/Assistant email address so that we may prepare for your participation.

 This is a great opportunity to work together to help all our children be safe and achieve at their highest levels despite whatever traumatic circumstances they may have endured.

 I look forward to seeing you.

 Yours very truly,

 Coordinator