Increasing Victim Safety in High Risk Domestic Violence Cases: A Collaborative Community Approach to Intervention

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Welcome!!

Who's In The Room?
- Community-based advocates
- System-based advocates
- Child Welfare workers
- Self Sufficiency workers
- Parole and probation
- Police officers
- Prosecutors
- Who else?
  - Who has a current DVERT?
  - Who has a DVERT in development?

Acknowledgements
- Domestic violence can happen to anyone, and does happen in all types of intimate relationships
- Gendered language usage
  - 80 - 95% of domestic violence is committed by men against their female partners
- Victim/survivor/participant/client
- Offender /abuser/perpetrator/batterer
- Many ways that people may experience & access these services
Today’s Focus

- Recognize the need for having a Collaborative Community Response when responding to and addressing high risk for lethality domestic violence
- Understand the steps necessary for building a successful collaborative in your community
- Determine what role a local DVERT can play in increasing safety for survivors, accountability for abusers, and improving community partnerships across multiple disciplines.

The Case of Casey Christianson

Coordinated Response in Multnomah County

- Domestic Violence Reduction Unit
- Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team
- VRD / Gun Dispossession Team
- DV Response Advocates
- Elder / Vulnerable Adults Advocate
- DV Fatality Review
- Family Violence Coordinating Council
- Justice Jammers
- Regional DV Collaborative
Who is DVERT?

- Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordination Office (County Govt.)
- Portland Police Bureau
- Multnomah County Sheriffs Department
- Department of Community Justice
- Multnomah County District Attorney
- Multnomah County Animal Services
- Batterers Intervention
- Legal Aid of Oregon & Oregon Crime Victim’s Law Center
- Victim Services
  - Community based
  - System based
- Department of Human Services
  - Child Welfare
  - Self-Sufficiency

How It All Works

- Referrals received by Coordinator from Community Partners, LEA and self-referral
- Case screenings with core team every Tuesday
  - LEA, Advocates, Coordinator
- Full team meetings biweekly
  - All partners listed send representative
- System meetings to evaluate program/project
  - Upper level management in attendance
- MOU to define roles/expectations
- Confidentiality agreements
- Core team is co-located at Family Services Division
Based on an ancient story about hunger and sharing, this animated video is part of Caritas’ “One Human Family, Food for All” campaign. The “allegory of the long spoons” teaches us that when we struggle to feed only ourselves, everyone goes hungry. But when we focus on our neighbour’s hunger, we discover there are ways to feed everyone. [https://binged.it/2tWJoPe](https://binged.it/2tWJoPe)

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Group Activity/Case Studies

- Organize yourselves into groups at your tables to reflect DVERT partners who would attend a meeting in your community.
- DA, DHS, LEA, Advocate, etc.
- Spend 5 minutes reviewing the case in front of you.
- Take 10 minutes to discuss how the DVERT model would benefit the case outcomes, what issues may arise, what role each partner may play, who is missing from the table.
- Designate a note taker.
- Prepare to report back 2-3 key ideas from your group to the room.

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How Did We Get Together?

- Find the right people and invite them to the table.
- Create the project together.
- Develop MOU’s.
- Funding aids buy in (OVW/United Way/County/City).
- Unbiased facilitator/ordinator.
Cross-Cultural Understanding

- Seek to understand
- Assume good intentions
- Get informed about the other’s culture
- Spend time together and learn each other’s jobs and organizations
- Look for each other’s perspectives and find the common ground
- Be open and non-accusatory

Building Relationships

- Meet regularly
- “We’re all on the same team”
- Find your “in” and build from there
- Invite each other to attend your organizational events or important community meetings
- Create shared understandings / goals
- Recognize differences in individual and organizational culture, personality & philosophy
Building Relationships

- Learn the whole system
- Do ride-alongs, sit-alongs, shadowing
- Work to get buy-in at the top
- Develop agreed upon written policies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and/or MOUs
- Okay to disagree on things, but have to keep moving forward together
- Choose your battles
- Train each other and train together

What’s working (and/or not working) for you and in your community?

Questions? Comments?

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