DEVELOPING COLLABORATIONS THAT IMPACT CHANGE

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TRAINING OBJECTIVES:

• Increase knowledge of importance of community collaborations to increase safety for survivors

• Identify strategies for building collaborative relationships

• Identify elements of successful collaborations
What is Coordination?
coordination

1. the act or state of coordinating or of being coordinated.
2. proper order or relationship.
3. harmonious combination or interaction, as of functions or parts.
What is a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)?
THE SUCCESSFUL Community COLLABORATION OF SERVICES and Systems to INCREASE SAFETY, hold perpetrators accountable, and aid in the prevention of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
WHY A COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE?

- Safety is centralized – at the center of the work
- Focus on Accountability
- Effective prevention strategies
- A system where the onus of holding abusers accountable lies with service providers, and the wider community, rather than the survivors.
WHAT SYSTEMS HAVE AN IMPACT ON SURVIVORS?
“Rachel’s Story”
So what is Coordination?

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS
Foundations of effective intervention for safety:

- Interagency approach with collective goals
- Focus on context and severity of abuse
- DV is patterned crime requiring continuous engagement
- Ensure sure and swift consequences
- Help and Accountability
- Reduce unintended consequences
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We all have a common goal:

- Be willing to take the time for debate
- Know the roles of the players
- Know the strengths and weaknesses of teams and systems
So...WHAT IS COLLABORATION?

Two or more organizations working together to achieve an agreed upon goal that each cannot achieve separately.
"We like to bring together people from radically different fields and wait for the friction to produce heat, light and magic. Sometimes it takes a while."

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Approaches
Communities can use to Coordinate Services:

• Community Partnering: Task specific groups with strategic plans and objectives – Advocacy Agencies partnering with School Districts for Primary Prevention

• Community Organizing: Agencies working with the general community such as - Community Awareness Campaigns
Approaches
Communities can use to Coordinate Services:

- Community Intervention:

Intervention projects can offer an independent evaluation of each sector's functions, broker relationships among the different sectors, and facilitate the development and implementation of policies and protocols.
Approaches
Communities can use to Coordinate Services:

• Councils and Task Forces: Formal entities that bring together diverse community groups to create protocols, policies, etc.

• Training and Technical Assistance Projects: These efforts have produced a number of training curricula and written and audiovisual materials for justice personnel, advocates, and the human service and community groups.
HCDVCC The Work...

- What did we do?
- What did we find?
- Feedback from partners
What we did...

- 44 hours in focus groups
- 164 hours assessing 911 calls
- 90 hours observations
- 30 hours interviewing
- 1100 hours of analysis
- 1440 hours research and consultation
OVERARCHING THEMES:

• Need to assess for victims’ safety and future risk of harm

• Need to create a response that has less reliance on victims to have responsibility and burden of carrying the case
Victims’ safety at the scene is a primary concern.
PATROL RESPONSE:

Information gathering at the scene, assessing for safety and risk, and connecting victims to necessary resources emerged as primary issues of concern.
INVESTIGATOR’S RESPONSE:

- Investigators are unable to access information easily, timely and efficiently when working across Harris County jurisdictions, as well as working within departmental substations and districts.
- There is no sharing of information, best practices, case information, etc. across agencies within Harris County.
- Risk and Lethality Assessment are inconsistent or non-existent.
- The length of time between the patrol officer leaving, and the initial contact attempt by the investigator delays justice and access to justice for the victim as well as justice for the perpetrator.
Making Change...

- 911 Call Takers Response
- Patrol Response
- Investigator’s Response
Convene work groups

- 911 group
- Resource Card group
- Investigator’s Alliance
- Pilot Project with First responders
- Clearinghouse for unified response by DV shelters
- Enhanced training for evidence collection/Patrol Checklist
- Enhanced Training to patrol and supervisors for assessing risk and safety
- Risk Assessment for GOA cases and filing To Be Warrants
A Coordinated Community Response includes the provision of:

- Positive and Timely Law Enforcement Response
- Access to Justice
- Protective resources for victims
Regardless of the chosen approach…success depends on the following…
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

SHARED VISION
Sharing Vision Requires...

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

KNOW YOURSELF

KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

KNOW YOUR MISSION
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

COMMON GROUND

When CCR’s begin the work, there are multiple systems at the table and often they do not share the same philosophical approach to the work. Where can the group find common ground? What do they all have in common? What can they agree on? How do they begin to use this as the starting place for building trust?

For Example: Can we all agree that one death in our community is too many?
FINDING AND BUILDING COMMON GROUND

FOCUS ON POSSIBILITIES

BE WILLING

BE OPEN

BE CURIOUS

LOOK FOR CONNECTIONS

BE CONFIDENT
Finding common ground.
One advocate stated of her work with the CCR – "it was like that Claritin commercial...listening to the Patrol Officer helped me gain an understanding of the role of law enforcement at the scene, which in turn makes me a better advocate for the survivors"
PULL!

SHARING THE LOAD

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Change is a Journey…not a Destination! We often get stuck in the way that we have always done things. Getting the team to agree that when working together we all must be willing to change in order to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable can be challenging.
And it requires willingness to think about new alternatives...
.. maybe we should try to think out of the box?
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

Utilize strengths of the group

We are not all the experts on everything! Do you know who does what in your community in terms of service delivery? Do you know who does something really well? When we utilize the strengths of our group, we are collectively stronger!
CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

PATIENCE

Change is not a linear process! We often take a few steps forward and then a step back in the process. Building relationships requires

- Time
- Energy
- Resources
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE PATIENT

LEARN? I WANT TO BE PATIENT NOW!
SKILLS YOU NEED

VISION
POSITIVE ATTITUDE
WILLINGNESS
OPENNESS
CURIOSITY
ABILITY TO MAKE CONNECTIONS
CONFIDENCE
DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS
- Design and deliver services which are responsive to battered women and children's needs
- Require staff to receive training on the etiology and dynamics of DV
- Oppose the "pathologizing" of DV and exclusive control of the "field" by "degree professionals"
- Shift the focus from "trying to keep the family together at all costs" to safety of battered women and children
- Utilize methods to help identify DV

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
- Develop and utilize safe and effective methods for identification of DV
- Provide referral, education, and support services to battered women and their children
- Refrain from ever prescribing sedative drugs to battered women
- Utilize accountable documentation and reporting protocols for DV
- Devote a percentage of training equitable to DV cases handled

JUSTICE SYSTEM
- Regularly disclose relevant statistics on DV case disposition
- Utilize methods of intervention which do not rely on the victim's involvement
- Devote a percentage of training equitable to DV cases handled
- Vigorously enforce batterer's compliance, and protect women and children's safety, with custody, visitation, and injunction orders
- Adopt a "pro-arrest policy" and provide easily accessible and enforceable protection orders

GOVERNMENT
- Enact laws which define battering as criminal behavior
- Enact laws which provide courts with progressive consequences in sentencing
- Adequately fund battered women's service agencies and violence prevention education
- Commute sentences of battered women who kill in self-defense
- Heavily tax the sale of weapons and pornography to subsidize sexual and physical violence prevention and intervention efforts

EMPLOYERS
- Condition batterers continuing employment on remaining nonviolent
- Intervene against stalkers in the workplace
- Safeguard battered employee's employment and careers by providing flexible schedules, leaves of absence, and establishing enlightened personnel policies
- Provide employment security to battered employees
- Provide available resources to support and advocate for battered employees

EDUCATION SYSTEM
- Support and educate teachers to recognize and respond to symptoms of DV in students
- Teach violence prevention, peace honoring conflict resolution and communication skills
- Acknowledge gender bias in teaching materials and develop alternatives
- Require education about relationships at all levels
- Teach that it is the civic duty of all citizens to oppose oppression and to support those who are oppressed

MEDIA
- Prioritize subject matter which celebrates peace and nonviolence
- Spotlight efforts which promote nonviolence
- Devote an equitable proportion of their media "product" to battered women and children's needs
- Educate about the dynamics and consequences of violence, not glorify it
- Cease labeling DV as "love gone sour," "lover's quarrel," "family spat," etc.
- Stop portraying the batterer's excuses and lies as if they were the truth

CLERGY
- Speak out against DV from the pulpit
- Routinely assess for DV in premarital and pastoral counseling
- Seek out and maintain a learning and referral relationship with the DV coordinated community response system
- Oppose the use of biblical or theological justification for DV
- Reject patriarchal dominance as a preferred social pattern
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