Community Readiness

Adapted from the following resource: http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/sartkit/develop/build-assess.html

Assessing and understanding the following concepts will be key when looking at the readiness of your community to develop and sustain a Coordinated Community Response Team:

1. **Community perception of domestic and/or sexual violence**
    a. How is local media reporting domestic violence incidents?
    b. How is local media reporting sexual assaults?
    c. Do local schools and universities include seminars and presentations regarding sexual assault prevention?
    d. Do local schools and universities include seminars and presentations regarding domestic violence prevention?
    e. Does the community support a domestic violence response which includes volunteers?
    f. Does the community support a sexual assault response which includes volunteers?

2. **Victim services in the community**
    a. Victim identified needs
    b. Victim identified unmet needs
    c. Equal accessibility of services in urban and rural areas
    d. Equal accessibility for diverse populations including undocumented individuals
    e. Equal accessibility for individuals with limited English proficiency

3. **Victim resources in the community**
    a. What agencies provide services to domestic violence victims?
    b. What agencies provide services to sexual assault victims?
    c. Has a CCR been in the community before?
        i. What worked well?
        ii. What didn't work well?
        iii. What has changed since then?

4. **Data Collection**
    a. Jurisdiction
        i. Identify the county or counties for which the data is being collected
        ii. If looking on a smaller scale, identify the city/town or university for which the data is being collected

b. Trends of domestic violence
   i.   Number of occurrences reported to law enforcement versus number of occurrences reported to community based advocacy
   ii. Number of occurrences reported to law enforcement versus number of arrests
   iii. Number of dual arrests
   iv. Number of arrests versus number of convictions
c. Trends of sexual assault
   i.   Number of occurrences reported to law enforcement
   ii. Number of occurrences reported to community based advocacy
   iii. Number of occurrences reported to SANE
   iv. Number of occurrences reported to law enforcement versus number of arrests
   v.   Number of sexual assault charges
   vi. Number of arrests versus number of convictions
d. Resources
   i.   Availability of resources in your community including community based advocacy, child advocacy center, batterer's treatment programs, etc.
e. Protocols within agencies
   i.   Examining protocols and understanding the roles of each agency represented on the team
f. Barriers
   i.   Identify barriers to providing services to victims
   ii. Identify barriers to holding perpetrators accountable
g. System issues
   i.   Identify issues within law enforcement and judicial systems in responding to victims
   ii. Identify issues with law enforcement and judicial systems to holding perpetrators accountable

5. **What's next?**
   a. Review and analyze data
   b. Identify the data trends
   c. Assess for commitment of team members to the issue and to the team
   d. Decide what the next steps should be
      i.   Community Mapping
      ii. Action Planning/Goals and Objectives

      iii.   Timeline

      iv.   Carry out goals and objectives

Having a common understanding of the "baseline" quantitative and qualitative data will ensure that the strategies and solutions your team comes up with match with the reality of what's happening in your community. Without having an understanding of your community's readiness, your team may try to tackle projects and initiatives that are beyond the scope of what your team or the community can effectively handle. When collaborative projects fail, the team tends to lose motivation, members often stop attending, the team may dissolve and ultimately victims will feel the impact.