

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT, ADVOCATES AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS

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1

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
- Variations in police & advocate culture
- Many ways that people may experience & access these services

2

Today's Focus

- Building relationships between LEA & Advocates
- Understanding how to effectively communicate across disciplines
- Recognize system gaps in your community and ways to bridge those gaps
- Describe how cross-training is an effective tool to better serve survivors in your community

3

Coordinated Response in Multnomah County

- Domestic Violence Reduction Unit
- Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team
- VRO / Gun Disposition Team
- DV Response Advocates
- DV Fatality Review
- Family Violence Coordinating Council
- Justice Jammers
- Regional DV Collaborative

4

Law Enforcement and Advocates: A Tale of 2 Cultures

5

Advocate Culture

- Rooted in the women's movement
- Social justice focused
- Feminist-based
- Liberal
- Progressive
- Welcoming / open to differences with those they serve
- Politically correct
- Believing survivors is paramount

6

Advocate Culture

- Became advocates because they care and want to make a difference
- Make personal sacrifices to do the work
- Focus on self-care and emotional well-being
- Fairly flat organizational structures
- Focus on communication and consensus
- Group decision making and/or processing
- Deal with trauma / traumatic incidents daily

7

Police Culture

- Male dominated paramilitary organizations
- Many are ex-military
- Suspicious
 - Do not trust easily
 - Seeking “the truth”
- Rigid hierarchy
- Conservative
- Dark humor
- Trained to take control and exert authority
- Do not want to appear weak or be wrong

8

Police Culture

- Became officers because they care and want to make a difference
- Value teamwork and loyalty
- Make personal sacrifices to do the work
- (Secretly) emotionally sensitive
- Punctuality important
- Deal with trauma / traumatic incidents daily
- Current negative societal views about police
- Their culture helps them survive - literally

9

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

10

Building Relationships

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

11

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

12

Training

- Train through interactions
- Invite them to train you first
- Start with questions
- Authentic collaboration
- Must have their buy-in and participation

13

Training

- Law enforcement get very limited training time
- Must be scheduled months in advance
 - Shift coverage challenges / over-time costs
 - May need to repeat trainings
- Need to make it worth their while
 - Why this matters / benefits them
 - Spend time now to do better later
 - Resources are wasted when officers aren't trained properly
 - Training = increased efficiency & more successes

14

Training

- Training should never be a punishment
- Make them feel welcome, respected & appreciated
- Focus on skills, not "sensitivity" training
- Not all trainers should cross train
- Punctuality important (LEA)
- Mutual respect

15

Statewide Collaborations

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

What advice do you have to share?

16

Questions? Comments?

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17