How to Analyze our Community Response to Domestic Violence
The Big Picture:
Changing our Community’s Tolerance for Domestic Violence

Mary Asmus brought victim’s voices more clearly into court hearings

1. What steps did she have to go through to achieve her goal?
2. What resistance or problems did she encounter in achieving her goal?
3. What has happened since the film that contribute to Mary’s goal?
4. What has impeded the goal?
5. Who in your community stand out as system change leaders in how domestic violence cases are responded to?
Social Problems

1. Slavery
2. Segregation in public facilities
3. Environmental pollution
4. Child abuse
5. Auto safety/ seatbelts/ child restraints
6. Smoking, exposure to second hand smoke
7. Accessibility for people with disabilities
8. AIDS
9. Drunk driving
10. Sexual harassment
11. Men’s violence against women

How Movements are Organized to Confront Social Problems

• How did the issue become identified as a social problem?
• Who took leadership to address the problem? What strategies did they use?
• Who resisted? Why? What strategies did they use?
• How did opponents justify or rationalize that it wasn’t a problem?
• What changed? What didn’t?
• How far did the changes go? To what extent do they fall short of bigger goals?

Where do domestic violence victims seek help?

Friends, Family, Neighbors
Health Providers, Faith Communities
Social Service Agencies
Lawyers, Civil Court Remedies
Domestic Violence Specialists, Shelters, 911, Law Enforcement, Women’s Groups, Batterer Programs
Counselors, Therapists
Employers, Schools
Informal Support Networks
Goals of Intervention

1. Victim Safety and Autonomy
2. Offender Accountability: Eliminating Offender’s Opportunities and Inclination to Abuse
3. System Accountability and Responsibility
4. Changing the Climate of Tolerance to Violence Against Women and Children

Offenders CRAWL Through Them
Victim/Survivors FALL Through Them

Where are the GAPS in your Interagency Response?
Common CCR Problems

1. 911 don’t ask adequate follow-up questions
2. 911 recordings not accessible to prosecutors
3. Some police reports not being charged - some charges not enhanced in light of previous offending
4. Too many victims being arrested
5. Agencies not routinely sharing safety and accountability related information
6. Crime evidence not collected or being lost
7. Protection order violations not charged or responded to consistently
8. Prosecutors plead down or drop many dv cases
9. Bail & release conditions don’t reflect dangerousness
10. Long time between first hearing and adjudication
11. Judges sentences bear little relationship to severity or risk
12. Inconsistent enforcement of BIP amendment
13. Battered women losing custody of their children
14. Some cultural groups treated unfairly - e.g. language problems

Duluth-Model Coordinated Community Response
(Criminal/Civil Justice System)

Jail

Law Enforcement (Incl. 911)

Prosecution

Courts (Civil & Criminal)

Battered Women’s Programs

Intervention Projects

Batterer Program

Probation

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Model
(Criminal/Civil Justice System)

Jail

Law Enforcement (Incl. 911)

Prosecution

Victim Advocacy

Judge (Civil &/or Criminal)

Batterer Program

Probation
Duluth-Model CCR pros

- Community-based advocates lead problem-solving & system changes
- Battered women inform changes; victim safety & autonomy trumps offender accountability
- Difficult problems addressed in small brokered meetings
- Few large meetings; used mostly for networking & reporting back

Duluth-Model CCR cons

- Resentment & resistance can develop if advocates don’t model inclusive leadership & self-accountability
- May be difficult to fund system-wide monitoring & staff to lead CCR
- Rushing to quick solutions can create unintended consequences

Coordinating Council or Task Force Model CCR pros

- Judge or powerful system leader can get high-level staff to meetings & to make changes
- Leader can model openness & responsiveness to victims needs
- Large meetings aid networking; greater space for diverse community members to participate & learn
Coordinating Council or Task Force Model CCR

- Advocates & victims can be silenced or marginalized in meetings & changes
- Changes can be more about system efficiency than safety & accountability
- Large semi-public meetings unsuited to problem-solving

CCR/SART Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic</th>
<th>Sexual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanors, patrol investigates</td>
<td>Felonies, law enforcement investigators are key, greater reliance on forensic evidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence-based prosecution by city attorneys, victims often don’t participate</td>
<td>No victims/no prosecution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical rarely involved</td>
<td>Medical are key interveners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual violence hidden</td>
<td>Advocacy = justice and healing. Also enhance reporting, support victim during long case process, provide information to further victim agency and enhance safety, offender accountability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advocacy = safety and autonomy. Safety planning, offender accountability, addressing unintended consequences of system involvement</td>
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Blueprint for Safety
Six Foundational Principles

1. Adhere to an interagency approach and collective intervention goals
2. Build attention to the context and severity of abuse into each intervention
3. Recognize that most domestic violence is a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement with victims and offenders
Blueprint for Safety
Six Foundational Principles

4. Ensure sure and swift consequences for continued abuse
5. Act in ways that reduce unintended consequences and the disparity of impact on victims and offenders
6. Use the power of the criminal justice system to send messages of help and accountability

Messages of Help and Accountability

To her: (to counter what he's saying to her)
- There is help for you… (nobody is going to believe you)
- Keep using us… (call them and see who ends up in trouble)
- This isn’t your fault… (this is ALL your fault)
Messages of Help and Accountability

To him: (to counter what he’s saying to her)
- If you keep offending we will respond swiftly and surely
- If you stop abusing, we will help you
- If you don’t stop abusing, your life will get very difficult

Messages of Help and Accountability

To the children
- It’s not your fault
- You can speak
- We are here to help, not hurt your parents

CCR Problem-Solving

1. Identify and document problem
2. Expand understanding of problem: research, brainstorm, analyze, observe, interview, conduct focus groups
3. Identify sources of problem
4. Approach/involve decision-makers in proposal for change
5. Working group: meet, develop solutions
6. Draft initial proposal for change, check with experts
7. Present: get everyone on board to implement, provide training
8. Implement, problem-solve, refine, integrate into practice, check for unintended consequences, evaluate