

**Maricopa Association of Governments December 2010
Promising Practices Roundtable Working Plenary Results**

#1. What impacted you the most?		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Inconsistency of response across the region	13	limited collaboration, importance of multi-agency collaboration, importance of communication between all parties, have fragmented services, limited information sharing across agencies, judge accountability, recognizing what is lacking in response, Blueprint for Safety's example of communication between agencies, how do we measure outcomes and get information to policy-makers for funding, use of orders of protection
Survivors' stories	9	survivors' view of the system and where we fail them, help motivate those in criminal justice system, survivors' perspective, hearing from victims, victims' stories, demonstrated more emotional abuse/manipulation than physical violence, limited resources for victims when abuser is released from jail.
Role of Victim Advocates	8	advocates work for the victim; advocacy should be top priority to build relationships and get details for prosecution; advocacy is not consistent with resources, follow up, or support; educate victims about resources and make aware of the criminal justice system; need more victim advocates; reinforced need for legal advocates, help link to services
Lt. Wynn's material	8	power and control wheel tying behaviors to crimes, great ideas are already being practiced, detectives use same tactics on victims as police department, children's drawings, current police training addresses how to physically respond but not the mental preparation

Limited use/access to offender histories	6	no one does "checks" before assigning a response and no prescribed response means no accountability if noncompliant, not able to see history from other counties, limited use of history of assaults on repeat offenders to get stiffer penalties, list of chronic offenders, without histories offender accountability limited, implement DV supplement report to use to show prior history
Phoenix Police Department's "yellow card"	5	checklist patrol can use when responding to DV cases, Phoenix PD using a risk assessment, triaging approach for law enforcement
Offenders manipulate police	3	understanding how offenders manipulate, behaviors of offenders with officers, abusers' behavior with police is tactical
"Prosecutorial Determination"	3	what other prosecutors are doing, prosecutorial success with focus (King County's Gone On Arrival Protocol), Washington's "Three Strike" Law
Training	2	full faith and credit
Immigration issues	1	
Portland's risk assessment model	1	

#2. What implications does this have for arrest and prosecution?

<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Training	16	address attitudes, raise awareness of resources readily available, focus on offender tactics with police/judges, educate about new laws (i.e. strangulation/suffocation) and research, more education for first responders, how to interview child witnesses/victims, specialized patrol training on conducting DV investigations, educate judges, degree of physical violence not good determining factor, train police to reword questioning and track histories of abuse, police shouldn't be expected to do "social work", address "path of least resistance" in police department

Accountability of entire system	15	opportunity to be innovative and use resources differently, better collaboration through enhanced leadership, expand what is already working, conduct group meetings with police, judges, advocates, prosecutors; involve more of the community (i.e. CPS), increase networking, tougher for everyone to do their job when everyone is not on the same page, save time and money with easy access to information sharing between agencies, promote advocacy relationships, having multi-agency access to offender history reports, accountability for batterer intervention programs, policies established but not being implemented, need leadership and incentive for collaboration, knowing what the next steps are
Address attitudes	9	challenges in advocating, getting them to come to court, always recant; educate survivors are not reaching for help because feeling there is no point, they are blamed, and unsupported; understanding victim perspective; treating with respect and dignity; communicating the steps in the process and providing resources to victims, reduction in advocates will only hurt the arrest and prosecution process, prosecutorial determination
Assessment tools	7	using risk assessment tools, use specialized DV supplement for arrest and prosecution, use standard assessment tools at shelters to help victims feel heard, make police job easier while improving information from victims, dangerous offenders identified and resources follow leading to more success in prosecution, give victim more confidence in system, ensure appropriate questions are documented
Court Watch	2	
Collaboration with ICE	1	better communication with ICE to establish protocol for getting information
DV courts	1	
#3. What can be done to enhance our work?		

A. Evidence collection

<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Train on elements of effective evidence collection	15	listen to victim, increase amount of information gathered by police, emphasize collecting evidence at scene, how to document and identify strangulation/suffocation injuries, record conversations, take photos at scene (i.e., offenders, children), interview all witnesses (i.e., children, neighbors, relatives), include details to illustrate fear, use jail calls, include partners in medical professions, first responders, child crimes, DV, and sexual assault
Use DV checklist	10	"yellow card", DV supplemental form (King County), helps remind police what to do, help direct investigation, get context by asking "what did this mean to you?", include alternate phone numbers for victim, in hospitals
Include history of abuse	5	previous presentence reports, more information about DV history, entire history instead of incident focused; use photos, injuries, children information from previous incidents in history
Make cameras available	1	

B. Report writing

<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Review documents used to capture information	3	look to what has been effective, access input of DV experts or report review systems in precincts
Make recording victim interviews mandatory	2	lead to greater prosecution success when victims recant, audio or video record interviews
Train on effective report writing	2	emphasize complete and accurate reports, train to ask questions differently
Use DV checklist	1	help document details (i.e., witness reluctance to be interviewed, body language)

C. Coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates

<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>

Increase cross-jurisdictional collaboration	8	address jurisdictional issues, increase collaboration between cities and county, more collaboration, sharing best practices and tools with leadership, learn from Lt. Wynn how to work "hand in hand", hold collaborators accountable, use collaborative case management model
Increase information sharing	7	MOAs between cities/communities to share information about clients, shared database, access to offender histories, more case staffing
Assume best intent of all players	6	learn about each other's roles (i.e., limitations, boundaries, challenges), make commitment to doing own job well, less blaming others for failing, participate in ride alongs/shadowing activities, treat advocates as peers with respect, considered "equals", increase communication
Use risk/danger assessments	5	elaborate risk/danger assessment tools with victims who return repeatedly, use lethality indicators, look for pattern of control, triage approach by law enforcement
Expand coordination efforts	4	increase coordination, look to elements of the Blueprint for Safety (i.e., central location, available victim advocates, counseling), FACs, audit current procedures/processes (i.e., not being done how written or indicated)
Address compassion fatigue	2	show more empathy toward victims throughout the process (i.e., let victim know they can call again if they need help)
D. Victim Involvement		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>

Train on effectively engaging victims	15	learn about intent and motivations behind victims actions/decisions, show empathy toward victims, listen to their stories, respect their decisions while encouraging their involvement, try to see through the eyes of a victim and let them know they are heard, contextualizing by asking good questions, victims shouldn't be judged and expected to accomodate professionals, partner better with victims, explain process clearly and respectfully, allow victim input into plea agreement, more positive experience may increase victim involvement, set stage for involvement with safety planning
Build relationships using victim advocates	10	can't rush victims before they are ready, but advocates can still assist along the way; victim advocates involved from very beginning; training for advocates, support victim through the entire process, accompany victims to court, get victims involved and keep involved throughout process, give control back through knowledge and information, advocates called to scene, volunteer-based incident advocates (Colorado Springs, Portland)
Address barriers to court involvement	5	fast track cases, contact victim early and often, use medical records, subpoena victims
Communicate about resources	5	support, resources, counseling, resources beyond shelter, connect victims with survivors
E. Attitudes, both personal and societal, affect all four areas.		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Conduct trainings with all involved with victims through criminal justice process	11	more training, conferences, mandatory training for police and judges, differences between situational DV and patterned DV, abusers use of control tactics with police, more involvement of survivors in community awareness, change mindset of first responders; understanding "love is complicated"
Address territoriality and ego	5	system and/or players don't allow for questioning why procedures are in place, path of least resistance

Raise awareness through public education	4	culture change required to change negative attitude of society about DV, provide public education (i.e., use comparison of DUI and DV, law changes), more involvement of survivors, more involvement in the schools
Assess "one size fits all" approach to DV	4	Differences between situational DV and patterns of control, more focus needed on patterned DV, get expert insight on DV issues, motivate players
Identify and/or be champions for change	2	leadership models the way (i.e., keeping the promise), buy-in from leadership
#4. What changes can you support?		
A. Personal		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Attention to own attitude	5	remind self that we all have the same goal - serving victims, be more compassionate, be aware and informed, participate in "checks and balances" (i.e., are we doing what we should do?)
Increase education and awareness in my community	3	volunteering, remain open to best practices, include victims/survivors in workshops
More positive response to victims	2	Ask victims better questions, taking serious DV cases seriously
Build closer working relationships with police and prosecutors	2	not assume police are the bad guys
B. Agency/department		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Build better working relationships	7	with other agencies, collaborate more with DV program agencies, attend more meetings, be more involved, share information, look at cases together, get involved with MAG, to help with behavioral health issues
Use victim advocates more	5	provide advocate on the scene when risk is apparent, assign advocates for follow up and cohesiveness, ensure advocates are well-trained
Get support of upper management	3	encourage smoother transitions, better lines of communication, support changes in procedures
Assess internal practices	3	question class requirements for victims; utilize available, under-utilized resources, being supportive of victims

C. Regional system		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Improve regional effort	9	increase communication, accountability, consistency, collaboration, attitude, and understanding across jurisdictions; conduct audit to see if things are being done, provide more networking opportunities (i.e., green bag lunches, happy hours), support probation on third DV strike, adopt an assessment tool
Seek promising practices	4	Blueprint for Safety, expand and implement successes, national speakers show national issues, research Pima County protocols
Place emphasis on using advocates	2	convince police departments of victim advocates' importance
Increase education and awareness	2	help change perspectives, awareness in high schools
#5. Expected impact of these changes?		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Increased offender accountability	6	hold abusers accountable, harsher punishments, judges give severe consequences
Decreased crime	3	decrease in DV incidents
Increased victim involvement	4	better repoire with victims, more victim cooperation will help hold more offenders accountable, will lead to more successful investigation and prosecution, through increased trust
Increased awareness and education	5	change attitudes through awareness, increase awareness and collaborative awareness, support of leadership in showing DV is a priority, expansion of best practices
Improved victim safety	2	
#6. How will we know impacts have been achieved?		
<i>Result</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Anecdotal evidence	5	don't hear stories of women afraid to call for help, communication with victims, feedback from victims, follow up with victims and batterers, changed attitudes to be more supportive
Statistics	3	quantifiable in DV stats, use data, percent of change

Decrease rate of DV	3	reduction in DV cases, decrease in violence
Increase DV convictions	2	more effective prosecution because of better victim involvement, increase in accountability
Reduce recidivism	1	crimes will not be repeated by same suspects
Increase sense of making a difference	1	people will enjoy their jobs more
Shorten time between DV incidents and sentencing	1	
Increase consistency of services for victims	1	
#7. Other comments		
Better training + better communication + better understanding = better outcomes		
Coordinate efforts among police departments across jurisdictions and tribes		
Keep up to date with victims		
Create curriculum/education with advocates and police departments going into schools		
Immigration Status (i.e. how do we help undocumented victims? What rights do they have? How do we address their fears of making police reports.)		
Dependency, not love, is a big reason that victims stay. Very few options for these victims.		
Instead of bottom-up approach. Needs to be championed from top-down.		
Liked hearing about the O'Connor House program, their coordination, and part of the process.		
DV is victim of over generalization.		
Share more survivor stories with victims to give them hope.		
Stop showing the weak victim. Start showing the strong survivor.		