

ON-SCENE ADVOCACY FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS – EARLY INTERVENTION AND ENGAGEMENT

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WHAT IS CARE 7?

- CARE 7 is the City of Tempe's Crisis Response Team
- Similar to CR Programs in other cities
- Social Service program, not a Fire Dept. program
- Housed in a fire station
- "Mobile Social Workers"



CARE 7 (continued)

- 24/7, 365 days a year
- Respond to 9-1-1 calls
- Respond with Tempe Fire and/or Tempe Police personnel
- Operated by City staff and partnered with a volunteer (when possible)
- 3 shifts per day – 8am to 4pm, 4pm to midnight, midnight to 8am
- Staff member work the same shifts. This provides consistency and familiarity for emergency personnel.



TYPES OF CALLS

- Deaths – natural, accidental, homicide, suicide
- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Assault
- Child Abuse
- Robbery
- Alcohol/Drugs
- Mental Health Issues
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- House Fires
- Drowning
- Elder Care
- Homeless
- Etc., etc., etc.



CALL BREAKDOWN

- CARE 7 responds to approximately 100 calls per month
- Police personnel generate 60% of CARE 7 calls/Fire generates 40%
- CARE 7 serves over 200 adults and 50 children each month.
- #1 call – deaths
- #2 call – domestic violence
- #3 call – substance abuse/mental health issues



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CARE 7?

- To de-escalate the situation.
- To provide emotional stabilization to people who are suffering some sort of trauma.
- To provide resources and referrals in an effort to link clients to services in the community that are better able to provide long-term assistance.
- To get police/fire personnel back in service.
- To provide a “continuum of care” for the residents of Tempe.



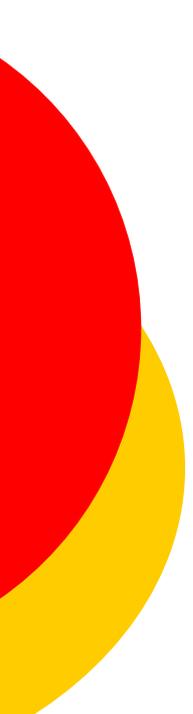
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- If CARE 7 personnel encounter a victim of crime on-scene, they immediately refer that victim to the CARE 7 victim advocate for appropriate referrals (services are available in both English and Spanish).
- For calls that occur after-hours, the victim advocate will follow up by phone immediately and in person the next day and offer services.



CARE 7 = ON-SCENE + ADVOCACY

- The City of Tempe CARE 7 program encourages crime victims to engage in the criminal justice system by interacting with the victim at the point of crisis, on-scene immediately following the victimization.
- Crime victims are then introduced to the CARE 7 Victim Advocacy Team and are supplied with victim services and emotional support.
- Victims not encountered on-scene by van personnel are referred by PD via Victim Rights form sent to advocate.
- ALL victims of crime are contacted by a CARE 7 victim advocate, either by phone or by letter.



CARE 7 VICTIM ADVOCACY – SERVICES PROVIDED

- Orders of Protection/Injunctions Against Harassment – via webcam linked to Tempe City Court, or in-person.
 - Also provide assistance with service of Orders
- Court accompaniment – advocates will attend any/all court hearings with client (if requested).
- Referrals to outside agencies
- Act as a liaison with TPD detectives
- Assistance with obtaining Police reports
- Provide information/updates on pending cases



SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADVOCATES (continued)

- Interaction with court personnel can be a more positive experience with an advocate present
- Advocate provides a “buffer zone” for victim
- Advocate gives prosecutor additional/pertinent information
- Unaffiliated victims now have advocacy



THE ABANDONED VICTIM

- According to the Utah Law Review, 2003:
 - “Victims are widely recognized to be the neglected party in the criminal justice process. Neither their needs nor their preferences are usually taken into account in the prosecution and sentencing of offenders”



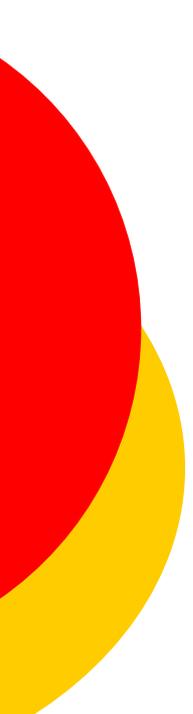
WHY VICTIMS DON'T PARTICIPATE

- New research suggests that victims of domestic violence who initially turn to the criminal justice system for intervention may be so dissatisfied with the outcome that they do not call the police the next time they need help. (National Institute of Justice Journal, January 2006)
- Why? What can we do to change the victim's experience?



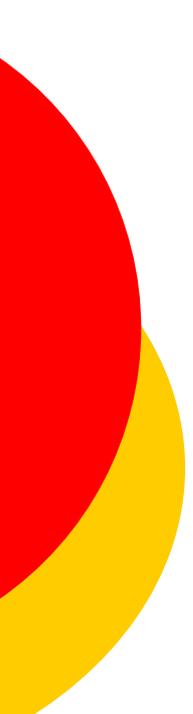
WHY VICTIMS DON'T PARTICIPATE (continued)

- The bottom line is that victim satisfaction in domestic violence cases appears to hinge on the extent to which the victim feels control over ending the violence in the incident, control over her offender's future conduct – and even over the criminal justice system. When the victim had a low sense of control, satisfaction with the system decreases significantly (NIJ, 2006).
- How can we give the victim more control?



WHY VICTIMS DON'T PARTICIPATE (continued)

- Women who take advantage of victim service programs tend to have more positive outcomes and are more likely to report satisfaction (NIJ, 2006).
- Ensuring that victim service programs work in conjunction with the legal system and community agencies and that staff address victims' needs in a positive manner will encourage victims to turn to the criminal justice system for assistance and may maximize the potential to break the cycle of violence (NIJ, 2006).



VICTIM PSYCHOLOGY

- Victims brought to emergency rooms of hospitals have been found to be more socially isolated, have lower self-esteem, and fewer social and financial resources than other women treated for injuries in the same hospital emergency rooms that were not injured by their partners (New England Journal of Medicine, 2005).
- How can we make sure that these victims are getting their needs met immediately post-trauma?



VICTIM PSYCHOLOGY

- Specialized police response is more likely to see victims leave their abuser sooner...it also results in higher victim reporting of reabuse. Finally, victims of specialized police response are more likely to secure protective orders against their abusers. One of the most important specialized police services that influence victim behavior is serving protective orders and assisting in safety planning. By contrast, victim services alone has not been found to be associated with victims leaving abusers...(Practical Implications of Current Domestic Violence Research, 2008).
- Specialized police response = crisis intervention?



VICTIM PSYCHOLOGY

- While victims most commonly reported fear of retaliation as a barrier to their participation in prosecution, a three state study found that the fear was reduced in sites with specialized prosecution programs, increased victim advocacy and specialized domestic violence courts. (U.S. Department of Justice, 2007).



WHAT DO VICTIMS REALLY WANT?

- One-stop-shop facility is preferred.
- Clear, easy to understand information.
- Case progression information in a timely manner.
- Contact information for all points during the process.