

Maricopa Association of Governments
2010 Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project
Promising Practices Roundtable
Areas of Most Potential (AMPs)

On December 1, 2010, the Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project (PEP) Promising Practices Roundtable highlighted local and national promising practices for arrest and prosecution of misdemeanor domestic violence offenders. Three local organizations, five national speakers, and a panel of domestic violence survivors presented on what is working well in the areas of training, communication/collaboration, victim involvement, and attitudes. Community partners were engaged in identifying areas of most potential (AMPs) for local implementation. This document provides an overview of the discussion results along with the frequency in which the topics were mentioned.

1. Community partners reported the following impacted them the most:
 - Inconsistency of response across the region (13)
 - Survivor's stories (9)
 - Role of victim advocates (8)
 - Lt. Wynn's material (8)
 - Limited use/access to offender histories (6)
 - Phoenix Police Department's "yellow card" (5)
 - Offenders manipulate police (3)
 - "Prosecutorial Determination" (3)
 - Training (2)
 - Immigration issues (1)
 - Portland's risk assessment model (1)

2. Community partners stated the following implications for arrest and prosecution:
 - Training (16)
 - Accountability of entire system (15)
 - Address attitudes (9)
 - Assessment tools (7)
 - Court Watch (2)
 - Collaboration with ICE (1)
 - DV courts (1)

3. Community partners suggested the following enhancements of the work already being done :
 - A. Evidence Collection
 - Train on elements of effective evidence collection (15)
 - Use DV checklist (10)
 - Include history of abuse (5)
 - Make cameras available (1)

 - B. Report Writing

- Review documents used to capture information (3)
 - Make recording victim interviews mandatory (2)
 - Train on effective report writing (2)
 - Use DV checklist (1)
- C. Coordination among law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim advocates
- Increase cross-jurisdictional collaboration (8)
 - Increase information sharing (7)
 - Assume best intent of all players (6)
 - Use risk/danger assessments (5)
 - Expand coordination efforts (4)
 - Address compassion fatigue (2)
- D. Victim Involvement
- Train on effectively engaging victims (15)
 - Build relationships using victim advocates (10)
 - Address barriers to court involvement (5)
 - Communicate about resources (5)
- E. Attitudes (personal and societal)
- Conduct trainings with all involved with victims in criminal justice process (11)
 - Address territoriality and ego (5)
 - Raise awareness through public education (4)
 - Assess “one size fits all” approach to DV (4)
 - Identify and/or be champions for change (2)
4. Community partners reported supporting the following changes:
- A. Personal
- Attention to own attitude (5)
 - Increase education and awareness in my community (3)
 - More positive response to victims (2)
 - Build closer working relationships with police and prosecutors (2)
- B. Agency/Department
- Build better working relationships (7)
 - Use victim advocates more (5)
 - Get support of upper management (3)
 - Assess internal practices (3)
- C. Regional System
- Improve regional effort (9)
 - Seek promising practices (4)
 - Place emphasis on using advocates (2)
 - Increase education and awareness (2)

5. Community partners noted the following expected impacts of these changes:
 - Increased offender accountability (6)
 - Decreased crime (3)
 - Increased victim involvement (4)
 - Increased awareness and education (5)
 - Improved victim safety (2)

6. Community partners suggested the following indicators for knowing when these impacts have been achieved:
 - Anecdotal evidence (5)
 - Statistics (3)
 - Decreased rate of DV (3)
 - Increase in DV convictions (2)
 - Reduced recidivism (1)
 - Increased sense of making a difference (1)
 - Shortened time between DV incidents and sentencing (1)
 - Increase in consistency of services for victims (1)

7. Comments:
 - Stop showing the weak victim. Start showing the strong survivor.
 - Better training + better communication + better understanding = better outcomes
 - Dependency, not love, is a big reason victims stay. There are very few options for these victims.
 - Domestic violence is the victim of over generalization.
 - Share more survivor stories with victims to give them hope.