

Please stand by for realtime captions. Welcome to this call that is brought to you these webinars that come to each month with the intention to strengthen inter-agency response to networking. I name is Liz Carlson and I am the resource specialist here at Texas in the booth and I am not join the line by Mike Potter -- colleague rose through the OCC are specialist and she would introduce our guest speaker today at our topic just a moment. I'm going to go over just a couple of technical details for how the session works. And then I'm going to have rose to get us grounded in a topic about an interesting enforcement for battling to the CCR. But before I do that I would like to just talk on briefly a few of the webinar tips for having the best experience for today's session. The phone lines will be needed for the session today for the duration. But we do encourage you to utilize the chat function in the lower left-hand portion of your screen. Some of you have done that already so thanks for that. So for any of you who perhaps are unfamiliar, you will see that there is a little cursor in the left bottom box. On the screen. So if you would just type in a quick hello and let us know perhaps where you are joining from. It's a good opportunity for you to practice utilizing the chat function so that at any point during our discussion if you have a question or an insight or clarification that you would like to share with the whole group, we encourage you to do so.

If any of you are participating just by telephone only, I would encourage you to send an e-mail to Liz at to send an e-mail to [Liz@Praxisinternational.org](mailto:Liz@Praxisinternational.org) and to do so at any time during our discussion and I'll keep an eye on the e-mail box so that I can incorporate your thoughts into our session in that way. If anyone happens to have a tickle issue in the webinar that they would like to chat with me privately or perhaps a comment or question that they would like to pass along to our speakers today, you will see that there is a tab next to the public have of the chat and there is a tab that says private. If you click on the private tab and then you double-click on the leaders or the assistance listed there than that will open just put direct dialog box with individual and you can chat heavily with that person. That is an option for you at any point during our discussion as well. Finally I would just let you know couple of points. If you happen to get disconnected. Either by telephone or to the webinar connection at any time, simply rejoin by whatever process got you to that place to begin with and you should hopefully have a smooth connection back to where you were and finally the session is being recorded so if you have colleagues who are missing the session that you would like to share with them that it would just direct them to the Praxis training but the audio recording page. And the Praxis international and you'll find that the session will be posted there next week. So with that, I would like to turn the session over to Rose RCC are specialist to introduce the topic more. And also our guest speaker today Suzy Cremer from North Dakota. Rose are you there?

I am thank you. Welcome everybody and we are almost at spring I'm told by the calendar but not necessarily by looking out my window. But today we are going to be talking about addressing the law enforcement response to battering to the CCR. And I am most pleased to have Suzy Cremer Brenna from the Council on abused women services North Dakota

and that is the state coalition on ACA WS North Dakota. I'm going to introduce this more formally in a bid and then turn it over to her. But I was thinking to ground ourselves. We have over 70 people registered today. I see at this point we have about 22 people. But I was wondering off of the people who are on the call, how many of you have some sort of coordinator function in the CCR? Or maybe you have a team or a task or some into agency efforts. Let's start there. And then I will do a little intro on the topic some more and then handed over to Suzy and then we hope to have a dialogue and Liz and I are fairly new to this webinar process. So does not always go about it let's, does it lives. But we are hoping for the best.

That's right. Go ahead and raise your hand.

Yes there is a tab at the top I believe where it says that if you are coordinator I just have some coordinator functions, please click on that hand.

That's right. So a number of people now have done so. So we are getting a sense that I would say maybe about a third of our participants today or nearly half of them have the coordinators in the CCR.

That's right. And I will ask another question. How many of you have a coordinated community response in your community? Did the same again with tapping on the hand. >> It goes back and forth between the numbers. It goes up and down dozen it.

Just thinking or something. 6/24. So that just helps us as we go through this in terms of that I am hoping to pose some questions that might be able to get out the number of you in your area of expertise on the call. And like I said we are talking about how to address the law enforcement response to battering to the CCR today. And as you know, our coordinated community response effort is something that is put in place and is especially in place to organize the criminal justice system so that it will enhance its responses to the TBN we probably don't need to tell any of you on the line that there are significant gaps in terms of law enforcement criminal justice and other agency responses to domestic violence. And then CCR is one method by which you work in your community to bring about change and in how those responses are made and what they look like and how you can standardize better responses across the system. So one of the key tools in the CCR is to see what is out there and what has been done elsewhere and what works and where are their successes and what is the best. Just look like. So Suzy Cremer Brenna who is an outreach specialist at North Dakota utilized what is called the Praxis best practice assessment guide. To work in western North Dakota with the number of CCR's and I will let her explain how many. And how many agencies were involved. But she adopted the best practice assessment guy that has been in place for patrol officers and in some places she used it for dispatch as well. And what the best practice assessment guide is is a serious we of guidelines by which you can look at Dean's like the dispatch printout or the police report or the policy to see whether they incorporate some of the things that we know are going to be better able to build safety and

accountability into the function of whoever is responding to the crime. In this case we are talking primarily patrol officers. So these the key areas for the assessment guide is an elected the 911 call that they look at patrol and investigations in the look at charging decisions. Those guides are available on the Praxis website work but without any further ado, I think what we need to do is get into what Suzy did with those guys. And Suzy, before you tell us, we give us a little background on who you are and what you have been attempting to do with numerous teams to your coalition?

Afternoon Suzy.

Afternoon.

And everyone here me okay?

Yes.

I don't know about everyone but I can.

Okay. I am as Rose said, I am the outreach specialist for North Dakota and I have been with the coalition office now for over six years. And out of those six years I have done a variety with the sexual assault response and I did some work with shelters. They did some work to children's exposure to domestic violence. But really, the majority of the time that I have spent here has been working under the Royal grant through OVW. And we have reached a place now where we just received another world grant back starting in October. So, but this grant is really focusing in on the work that is needing to be done in western North Dakota. But I should say that the work that we are talking about today is actually done under a grant to encourage the GTE a grant where we were contacted agency to this grant that was awarded to the world - rural justice center at the state University in North Carolina. So it is a small city about an hour and a half away from the center where I am located. Which is also the capital of North Dakota. >> And so would we receive the contract to do this work, the activities for the grants encouraged the Rose project ever already in place of the grant was written by our CJC. Also introduction with the North Dakota Department of Health. So totally to find a way working with other members of the grant to encourage the team but for myself primarily to look at these specific activities and figure out a way to help the communities to achieve the goals of creating what that grant called teams or community teams. To look at and to move forward and strengthen the response to domestic violence amount per barely looking at the criminal justice response. Because when we encourage the arrest it's primarily the criminal justice grant.

So you took the guides that is it 11 developed and you modify them so much? Are you adapt them to the different areas in which he works? Or tell us a little bit about that?

Sure I can do that. I am thinking first though rose is it okay if I give a little background of the area was working in? So that we have a better idea some of the issues and problems.

Absolutely.

And then what the process look like.

That's good.

What was part of this project award on McKenzie and the counties which are all in western and northwestern North Dakota, the communities primarily were working with the families that were listed in the city and because this is western and northwestern North Dakota, for anyone that may not have heard the news lately, that area is the heart of the Botkin oil range.

Over the past five years there has been a major oil boom and the oil process going around in oil development. And we have seen thousands and thousands of people moving in or coming in to that area for jobs in oil and oil development. And other related industries. So with a huge population influx but then enormous rise in criminal activity. And when we have looked at and have the numbers for domestic violence, we know that the rates of domestic violence are triple and sometimes four times higher than they were about five years ago. >> So this is huge increase in the problem, right?

An enormous increase in the problem and about 80% of the victims now that I see being seen enough question North Dakota domestic violence agencies are from out-of-state. They have been coming to North Dakota with their husbands or their boyfriends because of these job opportunities and oil. And unfortunately many of them are coming with previous histories or the risk factors for domestic violence. And this is a very dangerous and lethal kind of violence. Advocates and program directors are saying that they have never seen this stage before. With people being strangled and horribly bigoted severely injured. Very often weapons like Johnson knives being used against them. Law enforcement is really struggling to keep up with the amount of activity going on. Are having a difficult time keeping officers and deputies on staff. The majority of the officers and deputies now are very young and relatively new or fresh out of training at about 23 years old. We are getting a lot of hits them from Minnesota because they want to, and get some experience before they go back to their home states. And little experience with this and a little experience with domestic violence. And law-enforcement agencies are also overwhelmed with the amount of crime in the having to expedite our triage calls according to severity.

Would you say that the conditions out there made the law-enforcement community and the communities themselves that they're open to the idea that you are proposing in terms of getting together and utilizing these best. This guys?

-- Best practice guides?

No because the community have this in place of the project started so I think that they are being open to the idea the thing best practices

there because they have that team effort already in place. And so the largest city in northwestern North Dakota which was a very long-standing CCR, had done a safety audit, and assessment a few years ago. And so, they understood the process and they have Artie done some of that work. But I think the rise in crime and the amount of domestic violence that they are seen is definitely one of the factors involved for them to sign on for it.

Okay good. So already there was some effort going on within those communities?

Yes. My name, the largest city did have the CCR and they had about 18 members on the CCR from really all of the partnering agencies in their area and the Air Force Base there. So they had a connection with military as well. >> Stanley which is about an hour west which is about two and half hours west coast of the Montana border done Stanley had the CCR that they were prevention focused and they have been performed to the RP funding but five years ago. So come of they had a variety of members that the core membership of advocacy and law-enforcement but also the head faith-based education and someone from the County home extension office and the 4-H leader.

So they have been doing prevention focused work and what they did was when the project started I brought the idea to them of looking at a way to strengthen collaboration between the agencies and the responses to violence and allow them to decide to vote on that. And whether or not they wanted to move forward with it.

Okay all right. So you brought that to them and said I would like to do this best practice assessment. Is that right?

Right. I had looked because they were so good about having all of the tools that someone doing the coordination our facilitation of the team because that was something that we did not necessarily call it the CCR process but we were looking at it more as they enter agency team or community team. And I guess part of that was to keep it with the openness and the willingness to keep coming back. That if there was something that they wanted to bring to the team, that they Ted. >>

But looking at the Praxis materials and thinking about what would work, or the communities with the best assessment guy that really were not the best fit for what needed to be done. And also the time constraints project because it is not the grant funding that was not years and years of being able to do this but this was something that had to be done in a certain amount of time.

And then looking at the guides themselves, I knew that and thinking about the capacity and the ability of the communities and the team members to be able to do the work and to get some solid results out of it. Again it was like they were coming and being productive at the meeting but that these were not test sitting at the meeting and talking but that they were getting some work done and making a difference kind of work.

Right it was a defined focus and a time-limited sort of situation. They did not have to go to endless meetings and wonder why they were there and come up with some envy you are going to bring something to the table and they could utilize it. Is that right?

Right so for the Stanley and the Williston teams yes and then with my TiVo so much longer team for long-standing. So I approached one of the members there who is actually a woman who works for the domestic violence crisis center which is also law-enforcement. I approached with the idea and asked her the team wanted to take it on and she felt that the subcommittee of the team would work better and for them to look at it as a way to evaluate the previous work that had been done through their safety audit work so to look at those protocols and some of the policies that have been done in the past and then to see if his it is doing what we wanted it to be doing.

So tell me that you have given some description of the team someone. And he can get a little complicated over the phone so we will try to keep it as simple as possible. But you are working in foresight, is that right?

I was working for three different sites. What team really because they had previous experience in doing the work. It was more of me monitoring their progress and just trying to offer any tech Nicholas is tense as they would ask for it work but they really did the majority of the work independently.

Okay. And now Tommy, with the advocates that were always involved and the law-enforcement I was involved as well?

Yes. The larger community may not have have a definite law-enforcement. The involvement and a very strong one that strong history of the CCR. I know that it can be confusing to keep trying to explain the numbers so we had our own team and then we moved west to this damage unity team. Then we moved west again and it was actually Williston and Watford city and the two County enter agency teams. >> That's right and I think Wilson was probably the biggest area where there has been this explosion in the population and the level of time. Is that right?

That's right. 12 years ago the population was about 12,000 people. And now, estimates, because there's really no way to get a solid number, they are estimating about 38,000.

That's right. Quite the phenomenon. So advocacy programs and law-enforcement and he mentioned some others as well. Who else run the teams and how big where they?

So my team with a long-standing CCR had about 18 members. >> Eight?

18.

Law-enforcement advocacy and I hope I can name, . Federal law-enforcement an FBI and the prosecutor's office. Medical and the military and Air

Force space. Social services, human services and children's advocacy and sexual abuse.

And, did they all look at -- and we will get into the focus and what you looked at in a bit. But there were all involved in this process throughout, is that right?

Well this team actually developed the subcommittee to the process.

About six members that included law-enforcement, advocacy, prosecution, come to think of flow scan to those meetings. I don't have the membership list in front of me.

Right. So that core group was there.

Okay. And did the various sites modify the best practice assessment themselves? Or did you start out with the modified form? I should probably clarify for the listeners that the best practice assessments are like a 10 page questionnaire the guides you through the process of looking at policies and looking at police reports and looking at dispatch and the sets of things. So, did they start out looking at the taxes self-assessment guidance developed? Or did you make some changes or did they make changes once they got into it?

Is kind of a combination of both. The larger CCR, the subcommittee to come a lot of it independently. But also with the time constraints and the amount of work that needed to be done, and the process where they looked mainly at law-enforcement on team response and some investigation response.

Okay cool. So tell me what you did. But was the focus that you were looking at Suzy? I think we will get into the meat of it and just go from there. We focusing on?

Really the focus was on trying to find a way to strengthen that collaboration between advocacy and law enforcement for victim safety.

And then four more vendor accountability. Although again considering the capacity and the abilities of the agencies involved and then also what they're up against. Because of the legality of the violent so many women in danger which is made to look at the 12 responses and being away to strengthen our collaboration and to find a way to keep victims safer.

And so, you wanted to get law-enforcement to contact advocacy programs are see if they did? Is that part of how you strengthen that response? Is that what you are thinking?

Not at the beginning. I think at the beginning it was more about introducing the idea of the system of the best practice assessment that it has for people that have not seen it or have not used it, it laid out in a way that because I narrowed the focus down, especially for the two far Western teams who patrol the investigation and then look at -- that that what we look at is we take the advocates and the one

community of the victim witness coordinator and the other end up old case files for the last couple of years the violent case files and I made the decision to not redirect information. For time purposes, but also because if we needed more information, on the case, like if we wanted to see the criminal charges or what happened, to that case, that we had that information and then just everyone on the team science confidentiality statement work to saying that everything in these meetings would stay with them in the meetings and that would not be shared outside.

That eliminated a lot of work. Because it's kind of time could to go through and redact a lot of cases. Right?

And it also is helpful when there were some cases where for the case file we did not have the information that we needed to see what happened to the offender. So the workup of times of the victim witness coordinator or couple of times of one case where the chief of police went and got the information because it was like okay we have this, but what happened? What were the criminal charges and what ended or word the send up?

And when you say like that case files, what was it that you examined?

We examined usually in the case files what we were getting was that if it was available than a copy of the 911 call.

And that was not the information that is very limited.

Most of the case files were the law-enforcement crime report. And then if there was any investigation on the incidents that was included and I would say most of the cases that we see that was the extent of but we had.

I see okay. And how many did you look at?

On our team I believe we did about 10 cases with the materials with the control response and investigation. And they did this to that subcommittee and they did it about three meetings or three or four meetings period. There were comparing findings to the previous safety audit finding. Stanley and out in Williston and the other two small communities. And again we really concentrated on the patrolling and investigation response to the case files. So going through and utilizing Billy every thing that is on the particular part of the best practices which focuses on the investigation and some had one information but not always. The patrol response to the main portion of it because often, unfortunately, the majority of cases in western North Dakota at least in our community, they're not even going to the level of investigation. There's just so much impeding the process but our investigation had the strongest that we were getting from smaller communities.

The larger communities have detectives or more staff available for that investigation response. So we would look at that as well.

So tell me again, is of the three areas. Police reports, investigation and charging decisions.

Right if the police report says the most information we had and if it was the case that we would want to or need to see the charges decision then we would get it.

And that often was in the cases where we have this helpful to the case review process and it was very helpful for the team to see him what was happening with the victim and what was happening with the offender. And in a couple of cases where it showed that there was really a need for some strong collaboration between prosecution and law enforcement and we can talk about that when we look at recommendations.

That's right work

And the point is again that the difficulties out western North Dakota it's up against the court system which is just really overwhelmed right now the number of cases going through. Another so wait time at right now for cases to go to court. >> Go ahead?

I was going to say that the wait time is very difficult for victims and advocacy. Because for victims, the wait time to even see something go to court is often just too much for them.

Right and when you have a transient population I mentioned have quite a few people who are not even around then work right?

Well that's one thing for the victim to be sticking around. But the offenders are moving so often and so quickly as well that even if they are arrested and the minute that they post bond or their out of jail then they're gone.

Okay that's a challenge then.

Yes quite a few.

Okay so tell me and just pick one and tell me how you did this. Did the law-enforcement agency pull out the case files? Or did the advocacy program? Or how did you get these case files? I guess the case file what we are talking about is the police reports primarily and that is this all in written form and the charging decisions? Is there record of that that was in writing; was the investigation in writing? The these things that you were looking at that were all written documentation of whoever's job it was to accomplish these tasks that but something in writing so that unit answers?

Right exactly and I will pick the team with of it victim witness coordinator that went into their file and found these case files for the victims that she had worked with over the past two years. And again most of the files, because we were primarily looking at the police control and the unseen investigation response. The files might have others. Because for confidentiality and the other reasons as well, it was not always necessary for us to do it she did with that comes. But

the focus really being on the written reports of the photographs. That might have been included in any interviews that were done with the offender or the victim. Witnesses on scene. Just really everything that we could have that was pertinent to the list of findings on the best practice assessment sheet.

Great. So the way that it goes through when you're looking at the background and what the officer did, then this information specific to witnesses and parties involved and information from the victim and information from the sender and information related to any children on the scene. Additional information that might be relevant work so each case, so depending on the length of that I wanted to make sure that the team always have time to talk. We did about 1 1/2 cases per to our meeting. 1 1/2 for two-hour meeting?

That's pretty thorough.

Right. And then because of the time constraints on many of the members and to keep them coming, I did not want to put too much outside work on them and so for a lot of the meetings, they have not previewed or seen the case direct comment to the meeting.

Okay.

So sometimes the teams will have the members during their own review of the case and bring their own findings to the team meetings. I felt and the team felt that it was a process that worked for these teams to do the majority of the work as a group and make sure that we are always allowing for questions or concerns about things that might be noted in the case file. >> Right. So in that case file when he have the victim witness looking in bringing police reports forward, is there also information about the charging so decision in the investigation in that file that is available to the victim witness? >> Yes there is. And if that information was not available and if we thought that we needed it, she would go find it.

Okay good work

Or the law enforcement tested their absolute best to remember that we are committed to the process and they did their best to try to show up for the meetings as much as they Ted. Oftentimes they were called out or couldn't make it because of having their own work to do. But they were also very helpful in thinking of law-enforcement in going to get more information when it was needed or when the team requested it to see what was happened or sometimes they would remember the case and that was helpful. Because we have the written reports but we also had the memories to go in the room. That might say right I remember this was this and it's not in this report but that this is what happened. >> You had a significant amount of by and it sounds like it would get into some of that as we go along and get into this and into the conversation deeper. But I'm just impressed with the level of participation let's say. Was that true across the various locations that you had that kind of involvement and cooperation?

You know I think it was. Again, it was maybe for different reasons with each of the team leads. In my mind the law-enforcement officer who was also working for the advocacy program had a long-standing relationship with the transfer and with the planet justice center. Just so had part of the safety audit that happened some years ago. And she is also a trainer for domestic violence and sexual assault. So she is someone that she was I think a part of getting the buy-in from that CCR. To say we are going to do this and we will do it in a subcommittee and that it's important.

Very good. Well, let's go into some of your findings now. I know that we did not go into a huge overview of the process. But, once we go in the website in the self-assessment guidelines we have the process fairly. Fairly detailed. And we pull the report said here is that the team looks like in here is the should get at the table. There is where you may get involved. So the don't leave anything or a lot of guesswork. It's up to you to kind of say how would we do this in our area. And we will get into that some as we get to the end of this call. But I have looked at numbers of police report throughout the years and in my experience, those police reports can be very skimpy sometimes. Did you find that as true in some of your areas? That the test was not a lot to go on and you can see why cases fell apart? Because the report was not very complete?

Yes absolutely. That is one of the findings that we found across all of the sites. So the reports we looked at there was not a real strong consistent use in some of these law-enforcement agencies for a specific domestic violence incident report work there always using the UCR, the uniform crime report with the response to the incident. But that report does not have places for or questions about that information that is so needed when you're document it. So they were skimpy in the sense that the report was not asking the right questions.

That's right. And I think that is why practice focused on these reports and actually across the country when you think about changing and strengthening your response so that you can have a greater attention to the unique features of domestic violence, one of the things that they focus on is, what kind of information is law-enforcement collecting at the scene and how much I they you think a specialized format that would help them to go beyond your general crime into looking things like what is the history and pattern of violence. How dangerous is this particular are often data to this particular breakdown. And so, it to really cared place to start. So you found that in most cases that they needed some specialized guidance by their departments so that they start to collect information about what is going on with this couple and what's the relationship life and what's the level of violence. What other things did you find?

Were people asking questions about risk?

It really depended on the law-enforcement agency and often on the individual officer responding to the scene.

Okay so it was not consistent?

It was not consistent. The larger agencies did have some policies and protocols in place for use of specific incident reports and the questions in the reports and when they were being used it is being done the way needed to be done but from the smaller communities especially, there was no consistency and oftentimes again it was just a bare-bones CCR. With not enough. They were strong in knowing that they needed to fill that out. They knew that most of those reports had statements from the victims and statements from the offenders when they were noting the same descriptions and possible and not often the right photos. So let's see. I'm trying to think of things findings, across the site. There is a valid assessment. But these are not adopting completed which is not being done.

Okay that's what I found across the various locations that I have been and is that they are not asking what we call risk questions or the valid assessments.

There was a consistent use of the advocacy program information. The officers did know that that when they responded to the domestic violence incident that they were handing the victim either a brochure or a card with the program information and the hot the number to call. >> Now, is that North Dakota law that they're supposed to do that?

It is part of the North Dakota model policy yes.

Okay. So they got that down. They knew that they were supposed to do that. And you say that in some of the bigger departments, they were also directed to use report writing guidelines?

Right. They had specific domestic violence incident reports that they would use along with that UCR as a way to get more information about the crime about the offender. And just a stronger investigation that they would utilize the specific report. But again, that was mainly the larger law-enforcement agency while smaller communities were not using them at all.

Okay. I think that's worth noting. But yet in the larger departments weather was supposed to use them there were not consistently using them. Then it was for the most part but not always. But sometimes depended on individual officer has are sometimes shift supervised days are not as well as they could be reviewing reports. And noting that there is not the incident report with them.

That might be Suzy in the best practice assessment guy, does it have a section that talks about supervision? Whether supervisors I reviewing the reports?

We did not get into the looking strongly at the investigation response. But some of it I can answer that.

Okay.

Ahead?

While I did not see it, it did come up. I know that mine may not and that was something that they found I believe that they made that part of their recommendation. That the shift supervisors they look at the reports that are coming in from the field to make sure that the information is there.

Okay. Back to the findings. Any unique findings? Then we will go to the recommendations and what you came up with across the board than any unique Representative recommendations. So any unique findings?

Unique in the sense that the larger community law-enforcement agency because of more staff and more resources had a better handle on response on protocol and adhering to the model policy. They were more consistently using the DV incident report. And also when we saw I the strangulation forms they were more consistently attempting to obtain witness statements. There was a stronger follow-up investigation. Because there were detectives available to do the follow-up.

Okay.

We also had a stronger with some holes, but the emergency dispatch the 911 operators were doing a better job. Of following the guidelines. For the questions that they needed to ask.

Okay and I had guidelines that were directly Incorporated attention to domestic violence?

Right. There are guidelines for dispatch and specific questions that there is supposed to be asking when the color indicates that it is domestic violence.

And where did these guidelines come from? Is this something that the state requires? Or is this something because he had established teams that they had already implemented enhanced practice? Or where did the dispatch guidance come from? >> I don't have the model policy in front of me but I know it's part of the model policy that there are guidelines for dispatch.

Very good. So tell me --

Rose? I wondered if I could just interject something that someone had chatted in.

Yes.

So my work so Bismarck and Suzy maybe another program then different from yours. Is that right?

There here actually in the same community where I am located. Yes.

So she talks about her program with the legality assessment based upon the Maryland model. But if the victim is screened and then the officer

calls the advocate on duty that she is working with rural CCR to implement the LAPD for those areas.

That's a great segue. Isn't the kind of what you are up to that?

That's a nice segue. We can move that crisscross back and forth if you want. I can certainly talk about that is being one of the strongest recommendations coming out of this process. It that we knew that with all of the recommendations that there would need to be some prioritizing. And possible negotiation with agency had and making some compromises as we needed to to get the most important protocol from this place. And what I felt and what the team felt for the Far West team and the Sam Wilson team is that the validity assessment was really number one on the priority list for keeping victims safer.

That the collaboration between law enforcement and the advocacy agency. So, for the top recommendation then it became part of it updated MOU between the agency and the law-enforcement partners was that they would consistently utilize and modify the linkage. We are recommending the Maryland tools like me talked about. We were recommending that they use the Maryland 20 and that the use it as part of a domestic violence incident report. So I took a couple of the incident reports that were being used by the larger programs of the larger agencies in my area. They made some changes to it just so it was more useful to the Western rural communities but included the legality assessment and also medical release and strangulation form and put it all into one package. That was part of an MOU that was signed by three of the law-enforcement partners with the local program. Because those a little bit of pushback with the law-enforcement agencies who felt that they just did not want anymore paperwork involved. And they just did not want their officers going off the scene and having to carry anything with them. For safety reasons. And rightly so considering the level of danger that they are often walking into. Working with one of the sheriffs out there that we created and I just got them printed up and am starting to get them now to these programs that are these law-enforcement agencies that are working with advocacy programs to the process that we created a laminated card that was OVW approved to the program. The laminated card that has a legality question with the Maryland legality assessment tool. And then with the response being that if she answers yes to the top questions, it then results in the on scene call for the scene to talk to advocate right there.

Right. So the advocate does not necessarily go to the scene. They talk to the victim. Right?

Right. On the back of the call are all of the hotline numbers for all of the programs around the state of not Dakota. And we know that we are not asking are saying that the advocate would be going to the scene but we are asking law-enforcement to agree to a consistent use of the lookout the assessment tool and then to call the program when it is indicated. Or when the batter is arrested. >> Do you think the fact that it is a laminated card is going to encourage the law-enforcement officials who said that they did not want to officers to carry anymore paper on the scene for their own safety reasons? Do you think that that

might encourage them to say well I guess a laminated card in our Park it does in a pocket is probably doable?

I'm going with but I heard from law-enforcement who are out there doing the work. And what they told me was that you created and we will use it

Okay cool. So I am assuming that that is available and that Liz can get that out to people if they wanted. So I just want to menu at this point that I am looking at the time and thinking that we should move on. But that was a key piece that they're going to start using this tool that guides them for a certain set of questions and instead of those questions get a yes response but it triggers a call to the advocacy program. That's really very important so good work there. What other things did you come up with across the state? Anything unique? We will then go and implementation and evaluation and application. So any other recommendations that were common across? >> Something I did because they were consistently not recognizing the level of legality or danger that is part of the strangulation. So we have the question on the legality assessment in the top with the RedZone. So that was part of what was consistently to please as part of the MOU protocol. To be either indicated in the report for asking the questions about stimulation. -- Strangulation.

Okay what about recommendations for anything what the prosecution and debit or charging?

This was something that came out of the CCR work and actually brought it to the other team and I thought it was important also that the recommendation was that before charges are reduced or dropped in a domestic violence case, that would be considered to contact the law-enforcement agency primarily with the detective working on the case to see if you post the picture go on. Any contact with the victim by the investigators or anything else going on. Before charges are dismissed is there anything else that could go on?

And if they did not walk.

The recommendation I know that because of the situation with the courts right now this kind of with the recommendation. But that just has to do with the overload of cases that we are working on. What am I trying to say. So this is the one that was not a top priority. But it did happen. Not saying that it's not going to happen but is to something on the back burner until we can come back and work on it again.

And I'm assuming that some of these findings and recommendations of the fact that the resources are so inadequate to handle a lot of cases that part of what you can use this for us to support law-enforcement getting more resources.

That's definitely part of it yes. And it is a part of it, but it is also recognizing ways that the work can continue to be done and a strong and collaborative way. Even when you don't have the resources. That is something that is part of this as well that across the board, the ability of advocacy response and medical when they were involved to

really have some creative and out-of-the-box ways of getting the work done.

I'm going to move forward here. I could talk to all day about some of the implications of these and recommendations and all of that. It's really fascinating. But let's move forward. Yes?

There was one question that I got e-mailed to me. We just have a few minutes left before we are going to have to wrap up. And so Suzy I'm going to forward this question. It asks I think about your suggestions about how to kind of work past any so the notion of not airing dirty laundry. So that might be a little longer conversation. Maybe I would just forward that e-mail to you and you can respond to the comment directly. Without the all right? Or prose, which you want to take it up ask what do you think?

We can talk some about that now. I think partly, you can do this best practice recommendations for use these best practice guides with a smaller group. Let's say you have a high level of that we don't want her dirty laundry aired. I have never heard of ringing in people bringing in social services to review reports. So that is a high level of trust. But generally, you can just get law-enforcement and advocacy programs to sit down and look at these or bring in the prosecutors and they're all privy to it anyway. I think that's one method. Suzy what did you do? To reduce some of this kind of sensitivity or defensiveness?

I think it was helpful that while I was coordinating and facilitating, I had that working relationship with the partners on the team. But I was not part of the team. So there were a couple of times and acted as a kind of mediator.

So sometimes it got dumped on the table during the case review. So because there was a hesitancy or inability by the people involved to be able to move forward on it, they also knew that this is a place where they could do it because we were talking about some pity have the staff. And so when it happens, that I was the outsider but a trusted outsider.

And I think you had some confidentiality agreements in the beginning as well. Any must have laid the groundwork that this is not about the individual but that it is about looking at what these officers may need to enhance the responses. Right?

We also allow the time for dirty laundry to, but we allow time to talk about it.

Interesting. And I am assuming Suzy that the questionnaire can e-mail you for some ideas on that?

That's fine.

Or information?

And again now I'm starting to rush through this but the implementation. The recommendations that you made. Is there going to be some process whereby the advocacy program or if you check in at a certain point to see whether the recommendation is actually taken up? And whether they made a difference?

While the grant ended the grant project it and. My working with those programs and with the Western part of North Dakota continues to the grants. So I will bring up questions and ask and I am checking in with the communities on a regular basis Billy to just kind of see how it is going and what happened with this. The anything that you need. A reminder that it would be helpful that I would be happy to help your team with the setting up and evaluation of the recommendations to see what was actually implemented and is a working. I noted tell you the from being out in the oil patch earlier this week and then the team is continuing their work through the grant and taking on the sexual assault response now. And talking about the work that was done on domestic violence in the numbers that were at the meeting and the advocacy and the victim witness coordinator they both said that we are seeing a difference. >> Good in the evaluation of the results, that is a testimony from the field. What do you think? Do think it worked out? Do recommend this process to others?

Absolutely.

And absolutely for the grantees. The dynamics of working in smaller communities and just the usefulness of these assessment tools for the best practices assessment. They are so applicable and they are created in a way that you can modify according to the needs of your community.

Very good. And so, here is some repetition possibility. You mentioned that you can adopt them and getting by and companies with you have teams that some of them were already that there was a high level of Corporation that say. So, I am assuming that some of the guidelines to do talk about how to lay the groundwork. But Liz, this may be a great place for you to mentor that there is a self-assessment guidelines or best practices assessment training coming up. To her to say something about that?

I do. Thank you for that rose. So what Suzy has been telling us about a little bit is that there is an opportunity coming up for all of you to participate in Institute that Praxis is offering in St. Paul Minnesota. Registration is still open. April 29 to May 2 is the community assessment Institute that is offered to the institutional analysis program of Praxis. And if you go to the webpage of IATA and institutional analysis community assessment, you will be able to see the full explanation of what is offered at the Institute as well as registration link and details about with the travel requirements are and to download publicity and so forth. So we just encourage you absolutely to consider that for yourself or perhaps sending a team from your organization. It is indeed a fantastic way for you to immerse yourself in exactly what Suzy has been sharing with us. And I just would also briefly tell you that you have an opportunity to participate in a webinar series that is being offered this summer. July, August and

number. This is a three part series on how to use the guides and implementing the guides in your own community. So on that same webpage, you also see the opportunity to register for the three-part webinar series. To the institutional analysis project. So we encourage you to consider all of the to familiarize yourself further with what is available to.

Yes. Thank you Liz. I just want to say some closing comments as well. Because of the things that Suzy did with this project that involved multiple teams of multiple areas. They do encourage people if you are on the line and thing that we cannot keep that going. Take a look at the best practices of the guides. Because if nothing else, on the website, they will help you to think about that okay, we are seeing a lot of problems here with the law enforcement response. We are seeing a lot of dismissals. How does this happen? This will take you to a place that will kill you into how important the report is and the policy and that sort of thing. So even if you don't use it, it's a real educational tool. And a lot of advocacy programs that I recommend first of all that if you can be doing some tracking and monitoring in ASP data to suggest. That we have poor results here or maybe in a focus group you are finding out from the women the officers at the scene are not asking the questions and taking pictures and interviewing anybody and asking the risk assessment. Wants to identify that there is a problem. You will have more possibility for by him. It of course you're not necessarily going to go to the large group team as a look we are having trouble with the law enforcement response. But taking it up the decision-maker in a meeting with them alone and saying, there are some problems here. What to say we look at one method that may help us to get to what some of the issues maybe. And another good place to get some by and is if you have a new sheriff in town our new police chief. Sometimes you get going to them and say, look this is the dancing sweeping the nation so let's take a look at this. Maybe just you and me for your supervisor and patrol officer an advocate and maybe coordinator. Let's just look at 10 or so reports and see what we come up with. That is a fairly low risk proposition. And you'll find decision-makers and let the Chiefs of police or sheriff's who would be mighty surprised that there is not much in those reports. And that there is no attention to risk and legality and maybe history. So there are a number of ways that you can use these. And I am available as your Praxis technical assistance provider if you want any information on these assessment guides. Feel free to call or e-mail and we can talk some more. This was a lot of information that we went through it fairly quickly. That is a limitation of these webinars. But thank you all for being on the line and Suzy, excellent work. I have worked with you over the years in various capacities now and I'm so excited that you are doing this. And in Q2 the other agencies and Bismarck who is doing it. If you are turned to figure out where to start to change law-enforcement response to give them something that they need, get them to take a look at this and to take a look at the Maryland model. There are other risk assessments that you will see the best practice that the officers can use at the scene it then they can make the connection with you as an advocacy program and it will drastically shift what law enforcement does at the scene. So Suzy, any final comments?

I just want to thank you rose and thing to and everyone on the call today for the work that you are doing.

With domestic violence. Together we can create healthier and safer world.

Here here sister. So check out this training that is coming at the end of April. You won't regret going. And that's about it. Liz any final words?

No. Just very brief, thank you rose and Suzy of course. All of you for joining us. When you disconnect you will be routed to an evaluation the Pierce just share your thoughts in a quick multitude would always appreciated and it is critical for planning. Also next month on April 16, Dennis again for a training session on best. This is for law enforcement response. That will be as opposed to this kind of informal webinar that will be a more formal meeting specific with Marcus the retired deputy sheriff and it will be on law-enforcement response. So join us and registration is available on the world training page of the Texas website. Join us for that session and thinks everybody.

And invite your law-enforcement friends to tune in as well.

Indeed.

Thank you out. Look forward to talking with you again.

Happy spring.

This officially and the colony may now disconnect the lines.

-- This officially ends the call and you may now disconnect the lines.

Just a moment. >> [ Event concluded ]