Best Practice
Self-Assessment Packets

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Who is participating on the call today?

a. Advocate from a domestic violence program
b. Advocate from a law enforcement agency or prosecutor's office
c. CCR coordinator
d. 911 or Law enforcement personnel
e. Prosecutor or other (“chat” in your response)

Methods for Coordinating Community Response to Domestic Violence Cases

Has your community:
- Organized a CCR (Coordinated Community Response) team?
- Conducted a Safety and Accountability Audit?
- Established a court watch?
- Formed a Fatality Review Team?
- Other methods? (“chat” in your response)
Lessons Learned from Audits

Complex systems
Not designed to account for battering and domestic violence
Best Practice Assessment: we know more now!
    30 years of experience with criminal legal system change
    70 or so Safety & Accountability Audits

Effective Intervention: 6 Elements

1. Interagency approach
2. Attention to context and severity
3. Continuing engagement
4. Sure and swift consequences
5. Messages of help and accountability
6. Reduce disparity of impact

Best Practice Assessment: Features & Best Fit

• Completed over a series of 3-5 meetings; 1-6 months
• Conducted by a small team
• Limited data collection
• Possible in some settings when there are challenging local conditions
• Examine a narrow scope of intervention
• Prelude to an Audit or "tune-up" following an Audit
Steps

1. Organize and prepare
2. Map and examine case processing
3. Report findings and recommend changes

Step 1: Organize and Prepare

- Assign a coordinator
- Select the assessment team
- Select a structure and timeline
- Develop and implement a confidentiality agreement
- Gather and organize policies and case files to review

Step 2: Map and Analyze Case Processing

- Mapping the steps
- Case record analysis
- Policy analysis
Step by Step: Mapping

Understand steps in official response
Use expertise of team members
Question and diagram
  How does a domestic violence case first come to your attention?
  What’s the first thing that you do?
  What’s the next step?
  Onward from there...
  Identify questions that need to be answered
  Reference throughout the assessment
Step by Step: Case Record Analysis

Using the Workbook to analyze:

- 911 Calls
- Police Reports
- Police Investigation Files
- Prosecution Files

Step by Step: Case Records Analysis Exercise

- Listen to call / read report: let the words do the talking
- Listen / read again: pay attention to practices on the worksheet
  - What practices are evident?
  - What practices are missing?
- Review and discuss as a team

Exercise: Analyzing 911 Calls

How does the call-taker establish the type and level of danger?

For example:
- Eliciting information about acts of aggression or harm
- Eliciting information about the suspect’s history of aggression
- Determining risk to persons at the scene
- Determining risk to responding officers
Exercise: Analyzing 911 Calls

How does the call-taker determine the nature of the emergency and the response priority?

For example:
- Establishing the threat of harm
- Determining the nature of injuries and need for medical attention
- Establishing whether children are safe or unsafe or being drawn into events in any way
Exercise: Analyzing Patrol Reports

How does this report account for:

• Information specific to each witness and party's account of events
• Information from the victim regarding history of violence, risk and intimidation
• Attention to indicators of stalking
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Patrol Report - 2

Sample police report

Step by Step: Policy Analysis

- Principles
- Procedures
- Monitoring
Step by Step: Policy Analysis

Does the policy:
- Adhere to an inter-agency approach?
- Reference applicable laws, definitions and authority?
- Provide criteria for sorting cases into appropriate levels of response according to context and severity of abuse?
- Provide mechanisms for documenting the pattern and history of abuse when possible?
- Include mechanisms for tracking practitioner compliance to policy?

1. Exact location
2. Who is involved
3. Are there any weapons, type, and where are they
4. Is it physical or verbal
5. Is anyone injured
6. Are both subjects still there
7. If one left, description, method, and direction of travel
8. Has anyone been drinking

Domestics are one of the most dangerous calls for emergency personnel. It is directed to wait until the scene is secured.

DISPATCH

If anyone is injured, dispatch ambulance and first responders. If suspect left, give out description and direction of travel. Check for paperwork between the two subjects as soon as names are known.

Step 3: Findings and Recommendations

- Using the Findings Template
- Summarizing recommended policy changes
- Setting priorities
- Presentation to agency heads
Part 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Findings</th>
<th>B. Recommendations</th>
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</thead>
</table>

- Establish the type and level of danger.
- Elicit information from the caller about the immediate present danger and acts of aggression or harm that have occurred or are occurring.
- Elicit information about the suspect’s history of aggression.
- Determine the risk to persons at the scene.
- Determine the risk to responding officers.

Part 2

Summary of Recommended Emergency Communications (911) Policy Changes

- Principles
- Procedures
- Linkages & Monitoring

Part 3

Priority:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Main steps in meeting the priority</th>
<th>Assigned to</th>
<th>Target date</th>
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How to Proceed in Your Home Jurisdiction

1. Consider: Is the Best Practice Assessment the best fit for your community?
2. Read the Best Practices Workbook and seek clarification from Praxis if necessary.
3. Decide which point of intervention you wish to assess.
4. Convene a meeting of your interagency team.
5. Clarify confidentiality and data access agreements.
6. Begin your assessment!
Praxis Technical Assistance

Technical assistance available could include:

• Emailing or phoning with questions
• Requests for materials
• Audio or video conference
• A Praxis consultant on the telephone during your team meeting

Refer your requests to Denise Eng at 651-699-8000, ext. 21 or denise@praxisinternational.org.

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