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**Improving Responses to African American Battered Women who have Used
Force: How Community Assessment Can Be Used to Examine Disparity**

With Jane Sadusky, Praxis and
Amalfi Parker, New Orleans Blueprint for Safety Coordinator



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Using Institutional Analysis to Uncover Disparity

Improving Responses to African American Battered Women in New Orleans

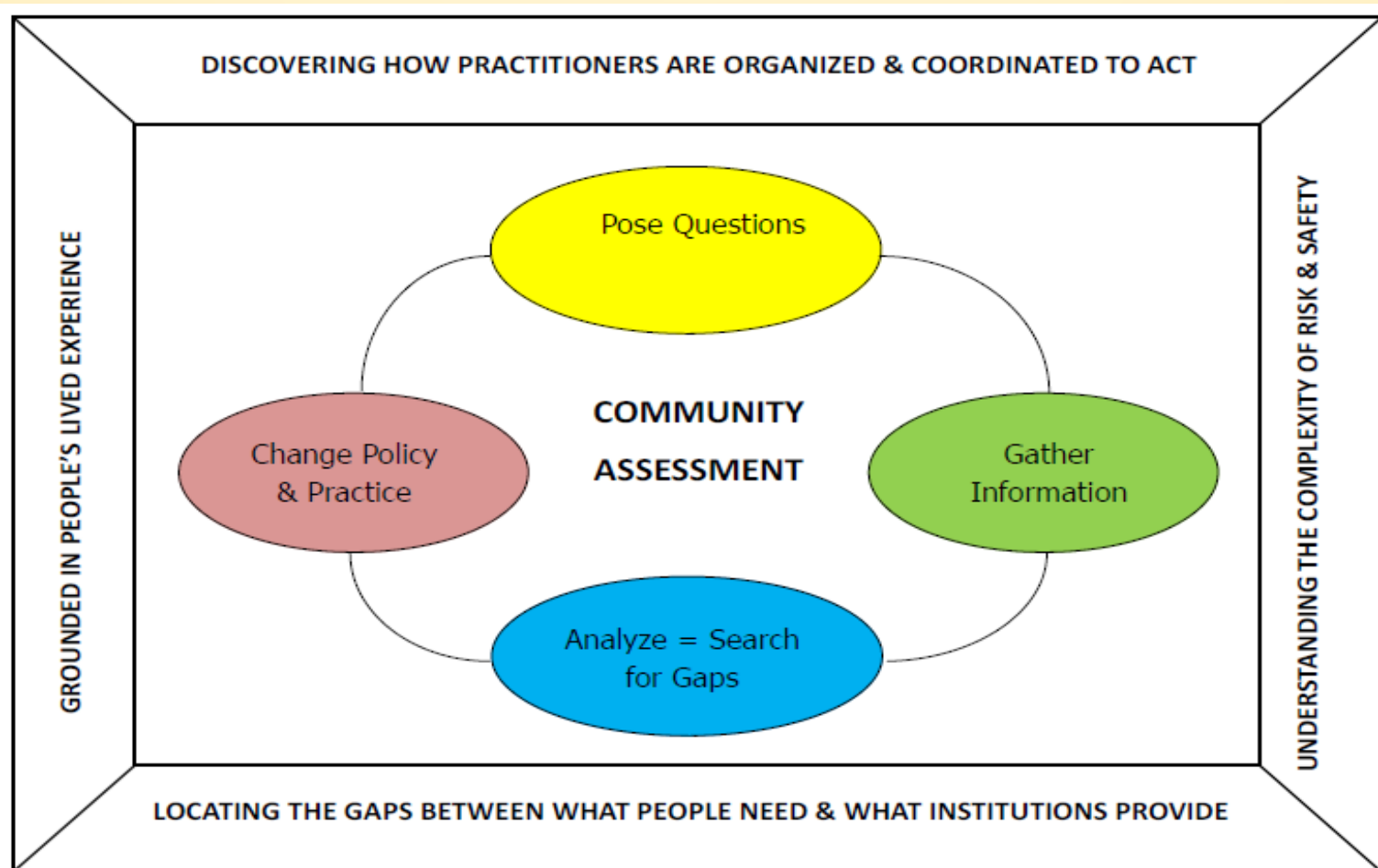


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Quick Overview of Institutional Analysis



Institutional Analysis: Tools for ongoing evaluation & problem-solving



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Options

- Use the complete range of community assessment methods
 - Mapping
 - Focus groups
 - Interviews
 - Observations
 - Case file/document analysis
- Best Practice Assessment Guides or checklists, available at www.praxisinternational.org



Overview of the Blueprint for Safety



The Blueprint is...

A template for a shared cohesive and research-based model for criminal justice intervention in domestic violence cases.

Goals:

- Increase accessibility, accountability, services and protections to all victims by improving the CJS response
- Reduce homicide and serious assault
- Diminish the overall level of domestic violence



The Blueprint Principles

Interagency approach and
collective intervention goals

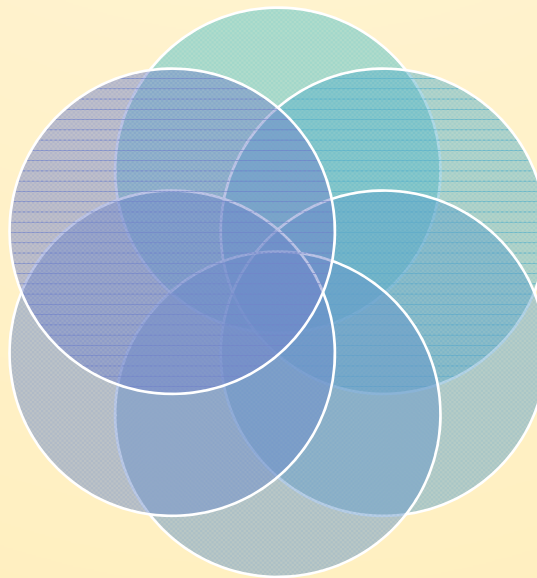
Reduce unintended
consequences and
disparity of impact

Attention to context
and severity

Messages of help
and accountability

Domestic violence is a
patterned crime requiring
continuing engagement

Sure, swift, & fair
consequences



The **blueprint**for safety

Praxis International and the Office on Violence Against Women
Adaptation Demonstration Initiative



New Orleans Demo Site Focus

- How do criminal justice policies and procedures impact African American women who have been arrested for domestic violence?



First steps

- Historical context
- Data
- Literature review



Preliminary discoveries from statistical data

Nationally: African American women experience IPV at rates 25% to 35% higher than other women

New Orleans:

- About 86% of those arrested on DV charges are African American
- About 20% of those arrested on DV are women
- African American women had the highest arrest rate while also being the most likely to experience IPV victimization
- When probable cause for an arrest exists, women are far more likely to be arrested at the scene (64%) than are men (41% - men are more likely to be “gone-on-arrival”)



Literature Review

Five socio-structural themes correlating disparate impact of DV responses & African American women:

1. Stereotypes
2. Mistrust in the Criminal Justice System and/or Social Services
3. Re-victimizing Victims
4. Lack of Cultural Competency
5. Resistance to Victimization



Pulling together a team



Strategic Planning Committee



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- “Mad day” vs. last resort
- Trust
- Finding a “gate keeper”

Advocate Focus Group

June 5, 2013



Text / case file analysis

- 4 sessions to review police reports
- Considerations:
 - Credibility
 - Predominant aggressor & self-defense assessments
 - Context & history of violence
 - Documentation & format of reports



Community focus groups

- Identify how victims experience a gap between their needs and CJIs
- Check the Blueprint Team's assumptions about how certain practices are problematic
- Clarify how different groups experience certain practices as helpful or not



Disparate Impact Tools & Next Steps

| Question/Issue | Strategy |
|---|--|
| Lack of cultural competency | Develop Power & Control wheel |
| Stereotypes | Implicit-bias testing Police report format & risk question pocket cards |
| Distrust in the CJS | Work with independent police monitor |
| African American women may not acknowledge being victimized | SpeakOut campaign |
| Are African American women treated differently? | Focus groups Police report analysis |



To learn more...

Tools and technical assistance provided by Praxis:

- www.praxisinternational.org
 - Go to Our Programs, Institutional Analysis/Community Assessment
 - Vast audio archive
- Community Assessment Institute, April 29-May 2, 2014, Saint Paul, Minnesota



Questions?

- Maren Woods, Program Manager
 - 651-699-8000, x10
 - maren@praxisinternational.org
- Jane Sadusky, Senior Research & Training Specialist
 - 608-222-8327
 - jane@praxisinternational.org

