



# ***Praxis International News***

*January 2014*

## **Praxis *Best Practice Assessment Guides* help North Dakota oil-boom communities respond to an increase in violence against women**



*"Using the Best Practice Assessment Guides was extremely useful. It's very user-friendly and gave our teams a step by step process that got results." Suzanne Kramer-Brenna, Council on Abused Women's Services North Dakota."*

North Dakota's oil boom has significantly increased populations in western regions causing an increase in crimes including violence against women. Law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates in Williston, Stanley and Minot recently used the Best Practice Assessment Guides to increase interagency collaboration and protection for battered women. Three distinct coordinated community response teams used the process to improve their response to victims - one team was a new CCR; another was long-standing with structured subcommittees; a third had focused on prevention in recent years vs. intervention practices. Each team modified the process and tools to work for them. Now risk assessments are being done by patrol and contact is made directly with an advocate on the scene to facilitate advocacy for victims. (This work was supported by an Office on Violence Against Women Grant to Encourage Arrest to the North Dakota Department of Health and the Rural Crime and Justice Center at Minot State University.) Suzanne can be reached at [skramerbrenna@ndcaws.org](mailto:skramerbrenna@ndcaws.org) for more information on how these communities used this tool to improve their intervention practices.

**[Get the free tool or listen to how an assessment works.](#)**

## Blueprint for Safety

### Blueprint for Safety Adaptation Demonstration Initiative

The



- New Orleans, LA
- Shelby County/Memphis, TN
- Duluth, MN

*"The Blueprint is about engaging our community in an ongoing process as much as developing a final written policy."* Kati Bambrick-Rodriguez, Domestic Violence Coordinator for City of New Orleans

Three communities, with funding by the Office on Violence Against Women, are adapting the successful Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety with an anticipated launch date of fall 2014. Each site has done policy comparisons, focus groups with women, observations of practitioners, and analysis of agency practices and forms, and are now negotiating policy changes to improve outcomes for women who are battered.

Each demonstration site is addressing an aspect of disparity of impact of criminal justice intervention: the arrests of African American battered women (New Orleans), poverty and the requirements placed on victims to participate in the CJS (Shelby County/Memphis), and the CJS response to battered women with disabilities living in group homes (Duluth). National experts advising the project include [The Center for Family Policy and Practice](#) (advocating for changes to reduce the negative impact of welfare, fatherhood, and child support policy on low-income families), the [Accessing Safety Initiative, Vera Institute of Justice](#) (promoting collaborations to strengthen advocacy for Deaf survivors and survivors with disabilities), and Dr. Hillary Potter, University of Colorado, Boulder (author of [Battle Cries: Black Women and Intimate Partner Abuse](#)).

### Saint Paul Blueprint for Safety

Practitioners in Saint Paul continue to strengthen their Blueprint for Safety. The Saint Paul Intervention Project received a grant to analyze their Blueprint practices and recently conducted discussions with women who are battered about problems they experience with domestic abuse no contact orders. [Watch an excerpt of the Saint Police Department officer training video.](#)

### Blueprint Updates

Praxis and Battered Women's Justice Project developed a new Blueprint training memo to provide guidance for practitioners responding to domestic violence cases involving [Military Personnel and Veterans](#).

The Blueprint for Safety is the first comprehensive interagency guide for criminal justice practitioners who process domestic violence cases. [Download the free Blueprint for Safety.](#)

## Praxis Institutional Analysis on Violence Against Women

Reforming institutional practices to increase safety for women



A primary focus of the Violence Against Women Act is to change social conditions that give rise to violence against women by changing institutional practices that contribute to or ignore this violence.

- How are we doing...Are we making things better or worse...strengthening safety for victims...enhancing or diminishing offender accountability?

Consider including a [Safety & Accountability Audit](#) or [Best Practice Assessment](#) in upcoming OVV grant applications. We can help you think through how to do this. Call 651-699-8000 ext. 10 or [send us an email](#).

### Recent Audits

- United South and Eastern Tribes, Nashville, examined "How do our community members respond to intimate partner violence involving tribal members?" and "How does the community account for safety at the point of first contact with Native women?"
- Advocates for Family Peace, Grand Rapids, MN did two audits: one examined their community's advocacy response to women experiencing intimate partner sexual assault, and another looked at law enforcement report-writing related to level of risk in domestic violence cases.

## Rural Technical Assistance on Violence Against Women

The Critical Role of Leadership:  
Coordinating Rural Interagency Responses  
to Violence Against Women



Successful multi-agency efforts to stop violence against women require leaders with the skills, knowledge of process, and sheer will to carry out such endeavors. Without such leaders, multi-agency efforts are rarely if ever successful.

A training for rural grantees of the Office on Violence Against Women will include new training modules to help interagency coordinators to:

- Articulate a vision of institutional and community change and collaboration
- Establish and convey the national and local extent of violence against women
- Support and elevate the role of community-based advocates in reform efforts
- Engage, motivate, and coordinate key players in your community
- Leverage features of rural life to improve outcomes

[Learn about TA available to rural grantees.](#)

## Advocacy Learning Center

Re-thinking our advocacy movement



*"We had a meeting of our coordinating council today and thanks to what we learned in the ALC we had an improved agenda, higher attendance, and we formed four work groups comprised of advocates and community partners to actively work on developing policies with law enforcement for an advocacy initiated response to victims."*

Kimberlee Bruce, Shelterhouse, Midland, MI

Advocacy programs in the ALC re-think their approach to individual, institutional and community advocacy. In this case, advocates applied the teachings of the ALC institutional advocacy training to her local advocacy efforts (The Golden Rules of Advocacy).

Shelterhouse applied and was selected by OVV to join an 18-month program including three in-person events, webinar strategy sessions, keynote lectures, self study courses and site visits - all intended to reinvigorate our social change advocacy movement.

The deadline for application to our next class beginning in May is Friday, January 17th. **Apply now** or contact [advocacy@praxisinternational.org](mailto:advocacy@praxisinternational.org) or 651-699-8000 ext. 16. for more information.

**218-525-0487 x251**

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[www.praxisinternational.org](http://www.praxisinternational.org)

Praxis staff and TA partners work with local, tribal, state, and national reform initiatives to bridge the gap between what people need and what institutions provide. Since 1996, we've supported advocacy organizations, intervention agencies, and inter-agency collaborations to create a clear and cooperative agenda for social change to end violence against women and other social injustices.

***Praxis...integrating theory  
and practice***