

Praxis International –  
*Technical Assistance on Analyzing Institutional Responses to Violence Against Women*

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***Collaborating to Improve Outcomes for Battered Women and their Children: Announcing a New Toolkit for Assessing Child Protective Services Responses to the Co-Occurrence of Child Maltreatment and Battering***

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**August 2, 2016**

>> Hello everybody. Welcome to this webinar. Presented by Trent 22 international today is a webinar collaborating to improve outcomes for battered women and their children. It's a way of announcing a new toolkit for accessing child protective service responses for the child maltreatment and battering. My name is Olga [Indiscernible] and I'm senior training and program specialist here. We have a few others on our call today. I will start with transfer me to staff first. We have [Indiscernible] who will be monitoring the chat today. And [Indiscernible] will be talking to us about the technical details of your participation. Before we get going I will pass this to her.

>> Thanks Olga. Hello everyone. We are delighted to have you with us today. This is our first opportunity to use this new webinar platform with Adobe connect through the national Council on juvenile and Family Court Justice. We hope the experience goes smoothly for you. It will provide some new options for us in conducting webinars that we are happy to share. We just want to walk you through briefly right now. If there is anyone who happens to be dialed in by telephone only you can continue to send your comments to us. Your phone lines will be muted. You can email a comment to [Indiscernible]Praxis international or myself Liz, it Praxis international.com. The rest of you were dialed in or connected to the webinar itself, I see number of you who are chatting in a hello. We appreciate that. It sets a very good stage and atone for our webinar. It's nice to have those friendly connections with people. Feel free to use that chat function throughout our session today. We will keep an eye on your questions and comments and we will be certain to integrate them into the conversation. I also would like to point out to you that in the lower left-hand portion of your screen you will see a little box that says materials. That is your opportunity in that little box to download presentation. The child best practices guide that this presentation is based on.

>> There are captions rolling at the bottom of your screen. With that we are delighted you are with us. This session is being recorded. If you happen to have coworkers or colleagues it will be posted to our IATA webpage. With that,

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>> Today we're going to be exploring the child wherefore a response to domestic violence and experiencing one experience with our mutual. This table to assist communities. Examine and enhance their work with battered women and their children. We are very fortunate today to have with us to guess to share their experience with the tool. Rose and Jessica. I will introduce them in just a minute. I just want to tell you a little bit about this tool. Supporting the safety of battered mothers and their children together. A guide to assessing child protection practice in domestic violence related cases is a new tool that we created for institutional change oriented advocacy. What this does is tied community teams of advocates, child protection workers, and other stakeholders to collaboratively assess their child protective service response to the cooccurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. With this tool, a community can pull together a team and basically do three things. Pick a critical look at current child protective services or CPS practices. Two, to identify the gaps between the intention and that outcome in securing safety for child and adult victims of battering. And discover ways to close the gap. Three, explore a new conceptual and practice framework for organizing the CPS response for battering. This is created with input from the national center. And the Center for study of social policy. This tool was tested in a right County Minnesota. Is now available for use across the country. You should have a copy of it with this webinar. If for some reason, you don't. You can go to her website and downloaded from their. The process that the tool takes you through helps communities seek answers to some critical questions. To leave no one battering is a factor in child maltreatment cases? And its impact on the child and mother? What do we know about her strategy to protect her children? Does intervention enhance or diminish her capacity to protect her children? Does her intervention increased or decreased risk from harm from the batter. Is there more we can do to stop the batter. The tools include direct the interagency teams to assess the current response for recommended frameworks, principles, policies, and policies. The response to an strength been done [Indiscernible] between community-based advocacy programs and community agencies on behalf of battered women and their children. If the hefty document their. As you go through it you will see a number of parts of tools that take you through this long established process to build relationships and to really kind of think about how you work with child welfare and help them think about how they work with you to keep them safe. Let me then introduced to rehab with us this tool is attested in Wright County, Minnesota we worked with rivers of hope. A local community-based advocacy program and write County health and community services child protection which is actually in Buffalo Minnesota we started with the discussion series for relationship building and establishing a common language for understanding the dynamics of battering in relationship to Child protective services. The assessment team then mapped the current response they conducted policy review and engaged in in-depth case view analysis. Throughout this webinar we will explore their process and experience including an overview of key recommendations for enhancements for they have local practice and state guidance for all agencies in Minnesota we have a

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with us and then Jessica Nelson and Rose Thelen. Just cause currently with Ray County Minnesota. She supervises investments along with the truancy service minor parent service. Jessica has also been spearheading the efforts in [Indiscernible] in child sex trafficking. She has her Masters in social work from the University of Minnesota and her studies Carrion emphasis of child welfare work. Before becoming a supervisor just cause several years experience working with families in many facets. Working with children and mental diet -- health diagnoses. She's worked with Monterey youth and working with youth in schools. In Jessica's tenure with transfer the three she has brought several initiatives that have enhanced the work that has done utilizing the science to child protection. Jessica brought forward that remained in practice today. Albeit, not as heavily as it once was, but still very much a part of a regular casework and safety planning. Jessica anticipates that implementing recommendations from this project will one day become a regular part of their practice and provide child welfare workers to serve children and families impacted by domestic violence. Jessica, welcome.

>> Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

>> And Rose Thelen is a Praxis technical assistance partner. Rose started out as a shelter advocate in the teen 79. She went on to start and coordinate a loose model corrinated community response instinct cloud Minnesota. She served as a legislated [Indiscernible] for battered women and cofounded the gender violence Institute. She has implemented multi-jurisdictional CCR's with tribal reservation advocacy programs. She has developed protocols among advocates and criminal justice agencies. In the early 2000's, Rose Queen corrinated a project to develop collaboration between child protection and advocacy programs across the state. She helped develop state guidelines for responding [Indiscernible] in child maltreatment and provided training throughout the state on the [Indiscernible] of human services to child protection and domestic violence and the new guidelines. In 2000 In 2008, she was elected to the trend 19 where she served on the human services board forging the relationships that led to her poaching [Indiscernible] as a national test site for the Praxis assessment guide. She currently serves on the Gov.'s task force. Domestic violence Papworth group to enhance responses to the overlap of DV and child mistreatment. Thank you for being with us.

>> It's great to be here, thanks Olga.

>> I will contact you to in just a minute. Let me give folks short little [Indiscernible] of the tool. Then I will come back and talk about the experience that you two had working with it.

>> By the way, if you're considering conducting an assessment or new to the process altogether, this is a chance to really learn this program from people who tried this. Please feel free to check questions and we will take regular breaks to make sure we cover them.

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>> The tool has a number of different segments to it. We developed a tool that basically walked through how people would work together. How they would ink through their work with battered women and children. Meaning, how domestic violence and kits -- advocates and anyone else involved in that, dependency court, other communities. The tool was developed to walk you through what battered women with child where for workers are providing. Hat not looking at the workers themselves how they are organizing the work of their staff. The way it's set up, it starts off with mapping exercising. You are mapping through the system. It's a very complicated system. And then it goes to a discussion series around issues related to the cooccurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. It's having but the domestic violence aspects as well to make sure there's a good understanding and a floor for how everyone is thinking and what are the best strategies for dealing with it. There's also a posse InTEXT analysis. -- Policy and text analysis. It walks you through recommendations and there's additional activities involved in the tool. It really takes what was known as a safety and accountability audit and adapts it to the child welfare system. Making it one to look at the cooccurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. Now the [Indiscernible] had two goals. One was to use the guide to identify ways to enhance [Indiscernible] to child maltreatment and battering in Wright County. Whenever a local focus like how can we improve the responses here. It was at them asking Wright County and the domestic violence folks involved there to take a look and recommend changes to the draft guide to improve the final version nationally. That is what you have now. Now, in the development of the guide, it was modeled a little bit after what Praxis has as domestic violent best practice assessment tool. It was more involved because the child welfare response system is much more complicated than the criminal justice response. In the development of it, we brought together some national expert and had a think tank. People from the national Council and Family Court Judges and other participants. For those of you who are not aware of the [Indiscernible] it came out in 2000 and recommendations for how communities can best address the issues of the cooccurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment and bringing together domestic violence advocate, child welfare workers, and family and juvenile court judges. We brought those experts together, they gave us advice on the development of the tool. We developed the tool, test it out in the community and came back at the recommendation, rework it a bit, and then consulted again with our experts in particular the trend 24 and the study for the center of social policy. So with that, then Kmart tool to have access to. Now, let's turn to Rose and Jessica to talk about their experience of this guide. Let's start with you, Rose. Can you give us a sense of your overall experience with this tool? Let's start with the assessment guide.

>> Banks, Olga. He did nice introduction. In fact, think you stole some of my stuff.[ Laughter ] . I thought the guide was from a nominal message for getting us through what you mentioned was a detailed examination of how child protection is structured in order to organize its workers to intervene in

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particular ways. That's a mouthful, essentially everyone is on board these days. People are fairly in agreement about the idea that we need to protect the safety of the child by protecting the adult. We need to do something to account for the violence of the offender. This gets that done. Who needs to do what it which step in the practice and how do they know they are supposed to do it? You often see reform efforts based on these [Indiscernible]. It really is a deep look at. It really tells us to be very detailed about what we did. What we're looking at, every step in the process, looking at every policy, procedure, protocol, format, guideline, computer screen. To see how this incorporates the intention to what was missing. I know Jessica still gets tired of me saying, it's beyond training and beyond the brilliance of the supervisors. How are we going to to summarize changes. They are very good. They won the lottery, how and the next person know they were start taking particular actions. We discovered a lot of [Indiscernible] where we put to enhance these particular method for all the workers. Again, so we could produce better outcome not just for the child protection service but the domestic violence community who wants to see a partnership that will really make attend to what needs to be looked at in terms of the children in cases where there's domestic violence. That's a quick run through. I recommend everyone take a look at this guide. I thought it was a very comprehensive. Jessica, what do you think?

>> Honestly, I would agree with that. It is a comprehensive assessment. When the guide was first presented to me I just recall my feelings being that of overwhelmed and looking at it going, I don't know what all this means. What could be possibly gain from this conversation -- cumbersome and huge tool. As he slowly went through the process and broke through each piece of the tool and looked at each a different aspect of it, the mapping, the different parts of it, it started to become clearer and actually started to become more alive for me. The different various aspects of the guys. As they were being implemented we were doing this sessions and the mapping and the different processes. Start to learn more. We know it inside and out. What can we possibly gain from this lengthy tool. That's really what was going through my head. And comprehensive tool. It is comprehensive but that is so beneficial to our agency and the process because it is so lengthy. You really delve in and get to the heart of what you do. It so important to get to that because is not just a superficial or the surface of the work you do.

>> I understand what you're saying. There's a lot to do. There is what the community assessment or safety audit. When you are so busy, and you're trying to keep up with your workload. Is hard to stop and say, let's do this thing that has all these different steps in it. I understand the process went pretty well for you all. I wonder if you could all say a little bit about that.

>> I think the process went very well for us. Started well and we had someone to guide us through the process. We had a rose that was bare that guide us through the process and showed us what we're doing and walked us through each and every step of it. I feel like I learn something from each phase of

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the project that we took on whether the information was buried deep and I landed a long time ago. It resurfaced. We pulled that information to the forefront and made one of our regular practice and kept it at the forefront which was very helpful. The discussion session was helpful in getting everyone on the scene paid. About what our agency beliefs were, and batterers, and accountability. What child protection is and how to identify protective factors and protection of children and protection of a victim, the mapping process we learned a lot about our agency, how things filter interagency from outside our agency. It truly was a growing experience for us to have to explain our process so thoroughly and why we do the things we do. And whether or not with policies to back them up if it's law that guides us to do the things we do. Or simply randomly and arbitrarily do some of the things we do through the mapping process. We thoroughly took a long and hard look, are these the best ways to serve our clients or are there better ways? And then the case file review process, I think we probably could've used more time. It took a lot of time and was very beneficial to look at cases that we had served clients and examine, did we do the best work we could of done? If we hadn't, what could we do better? What is the good work we did? Overall, I think we had such a great experience because we did have that third-party facilitator. And having rose there and having her be somewhat neutral party, we joked about. We feel she was neutral party but she doesn't feel like she was always neutral.[ Laughter ] We feel like she was a neutral party between our agency and advocacy agency and we felt comfortable having her facilitate that. Made it easier for us to be open and transparent. It made it easier for us.

>> That says a lot about rose to, anybody that's worked with rose know she's not going to be a neutral party when it comes to domestic violence issues. Wonder if you could talk to us about how the process went for you as kind of a third-party coming in and working with this community.

>> After all that praise I don't know if I can [Indiscernible]. Anyway, I think that's the beauty of the guide. It doesn't get personal. It instructs you in Hannah analyze the Institute itself. The assumption underlying all the practice self-assessment tools, it's not a problem of the individual who doesn't know what they're doing or doesn't like hundred women were the kind of thing. It's the institution that makes them behave in a particular way. There's a myriad number of processes why is it they do what they do. If they are not doing the right thing, how can we incorporate something that will direct them to the right thing? For example, what laws are needed to what [Indiscernible] are needed. It's the same sort of process. I don't take it personally. I know that if I was to shift it institution defines what I do, I don't make it my job. In fact, might enter an institution and no all kinds of things about domestic violence. There's no place for me to put in what I know about it, if I'm not guided by a guideline that says do this, document this, report this, use this particular assessment tool identify the hell seeking strategies, identify other resilience factors identify if the child is at greater risk of being removed from the home rather than staying at home and how can we all work together to end domestic violence? This is the thing that came

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out so loud and clear right away. This is somewhat neutral. We agreed on a bunch of stuff with a resounding agreement that the only way to protect the adult victim in domestic violence is to get that batterer to stop. Yet, the child protective system is not capable of doing that on their own. They need community involvement. Prosecution and a fair criminal justice response. They need everybody that the batter comes into contact with. The process itself took us to these concrete steps of looking at who touches this case? What are they do? Where they instructed to look at? What are they supposed to look at and their safety plan? Ultimately, what ends up in their case file which is, more or less stand into the lived experiences for the victim. So it was a really -- I thought the process -- I just have to do a shout out to Katie Brown who was a child protection worker who contributed valuable [Indiscernible]. Domestic violence program. And also [Indiscernible] and Jean from Praxis who are really helpful. In working with the draft, -- there were some gaps in draft. Everyone was in goodwill. We took our job seriously. Who doesn't want to be an expert on what's wrong best tool what's wrong with the institution with the operate. Everybody works in place where they can go [Indiscernible].

>> Let me jump in. I concede there is a lot of [Indiscernible]. I want to ask a question. And then I will go and check the questions. Have you answer first and ended just. If the community wanted to do this, what do you think they need to have in place. Patty determine whether the community is ready to take this

>> What you think a community needs in order to undertake this?

>> I think some perspective in the advocacy program needs to consider that is going to work best where their strong relationships in place. Have the value of working with child protection on a number of levels before, I think we had some good relationships. I know there's a lot of advocacy programs out there that already have relationships going. This may be a way to strengthen them. For example, you have a meeting with someone in child protection and say, there's this new tool, you think about going the possibility of using this? We can get some TA as we go. [Indiscernible] which I recommend you get somebody to facilitate this process and be the coordinator. Doing what's needed between meetings. That's a hefty commitment or discouraging people with a discussion of [Indiscernible] it's really [Indiscernible] Adventists was fantastic. Were building relationships. Not automatically improve our system Pro once we got some relationships, how do we really take a look at this? Had a look at the institutions? This is for advocacy programs as well, with the [Indiscernible] community with how to respond when child protection is involved. Happily take a look at the institutions which we operate survey work better instead of having them change us? You need to have someone from your [Indiscernible] program whose cannot facilitate the process. Antedated good grounding. The work of thinking about it and moving forward. It to really be grounded, the whole idea that it's not a personal

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problem. It's not individual issue. You can't go in there and blame and shame. [Indiscernible -- low volume] I also understand, like I say, I understand it's a big issue when everybody does what they do because of a number of things. It breaks down and helps people look at what is it

>> Yes it does. Think your. Jessica, do you think? What do you think the community needs to happen place? Eckankar number factors when answering that question. Time and the ability to make a commitment to go through that process in its entirety. It's a commitment from its and overwhelming commitment. But it's a commitment. Is to make sure that you can go through the whole process because it does take time to make sure you are consistently participating in the process. If you do, great. It's going to be very rewarding. We found it to be extremely rewarding and have some great mentation that have come out of it. Were exciting -- excited to begin implementing those recommendations that you'll hear about. So, start the project, we happen to be in a good place within our agency, within staffing levels, that we were able to take this on, jump in. We were approached by [Indiscernible] about being a pilot and doing the project and doing the practice tool. So we had multiple meetings and kind of internally said, we have the ability to do this and go through it. We committed to it. As time went on, things came up. We got busy, but we still to make sure we kept the scheduled meetings we had. We sought through, we did the meetings, we stayed on topic and task, we stayed focused. We were able to continue throughout the whole tool and get things completed. From when we initially starting out, for silicon implementation really good road. And the things that have come together. Basement other things it's a look at, the relationships that Rose had mentioned. The relationships with other agencies. They are different and what is the relationship like. You have to be transparent. Sometimes if you don't have a good working relationship it is hard to be transparent. You have to have a good working relationship. If you don't have a super close relationship like Rose mentioned it could strengthen that relationship.

>> What I'm hearing both of you say then is, there needs to be a commitment by all the parties involved. And two, there needs to be a foundation between domestic violence advocate, child welfare workers, and whoever else is going to be part of this. Essentially, those two. I'm going to stop right there for second.

>> I interject. Things about the final guide is that we benefit from [Indiscernible]. We didn't necessarily have clarity about how long this would take and there were some things we didn't establish upfront. With a lot of people [Indiscernible] and actually are domestic violence program went through a huge personnel turnover including its director. There was a lot of [Indiscernible] and that all went into our final product. So that in the guide. I just really wasn't happy about taxability with Jessica and Marianne



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and the agency. What's going on here. It was a leap of faith and you had to trust the process. It was pretty good ultimately.

>> We have at least as core people. So having the consistent core people involved really held it together and kept the project alive and moving.

>> Let me stop there and turn to Maren. Are the questions in that chat we should address?

>> Sure. Thanks. Allie and I were having a chat conversation back and forth about implementing and sustaining changes over time in any particular agency. We know as [Indiscernible] grantees some of you may be funded to work with these collaborations between community-based advocates in a big region that might cover many counties. Depending on how your state work might be many different child protection agency. Thought it be interesting to hear posttest application your [Indiscernible] and experiences we had their. Being used and leverage to advocate for state-level change is that are happening here in the state of Minnesota. Part of what this brings for local microlevel. It's the changes that can happen in a particular agency also, can be used for the state level to advocate changes.

>> Maybe Rose can speak to that piece?

>> Rose, when you think about that.

>> I think that's one of the things you want to make sure that was put into the final guide. Some of the changes are going to have to be extra local. Really, you're making a change at Wright County one and all other counties benefits from having the state agency Department of human services in this case take a look at some these recommendations and help them with making some of these changes to enhance, for example, their decision-making process guide for their spring guide. A bunch of stuff they could have helped with. Making mentioned, I'm on this governor's task force for domestic violence and Jessica is on the governor's task for implementation committee. Bringing that to the table with the state really did in 2000 when they developed the guidelines they did this [Indiscernible]. Here's what we should all be doing. If you read this guide you'll know better how to do this. By the way, regardless training [Indiscernible] you might be able to better guide. What needed to happen with the need to take that guideline and measured across everything that every worker does in that system to say, what are they doing at this point that incorporate intention to help seeking [Indiscernible] or the safety of the victim from staying versus leaving for the risk to the adult and child. That the concrete change that needs to be integrated into the text, the guide, the process, campy one egg guideline sits on the shelf. He needs to [Indiscernible] at every level. Are really wanting the Department of human service is to help with the

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implementation in many ways and were still in the process of bringing those recommendations forward me of a number of recommendations in that regard.

>> When you think about that.

>> In terms of-apply to the state.

>> We can always make recommendations and suggestions. Hopefully, there will be value seen in what is being recommended and that those things will be implemented. [Indiscernible -- multiple speakers]

>> I think being a part of the workgroups were on, that gives us the ability to have a voice in pushing those things forward. There's a lot of politics involved. Can only have so much. What really matters, getting the message out there and providing education across to other workers so they can at least do it at the practice level. Can't change policy than we can change practice. What we have seen is useful information to guide practice. If nothing else. I think, we can make the recommendations, but ultimately we have control over what we have control over. We're going to move forward with that. We continue to provide information. In any way shape or form we can. With the ability to do. Acting, you're seeing huge changes, not just because of what we've done but because that's what's occurring. We will get into that a little bit. As we move forward. Some of that wasn't due to us. The system had set it up. As we came upon our recommendations, the timing was right with the ending of our project and recommendations that our system was going through a change. Our recommendations came at the perfect time for all of this to come together.

>> That's the thing that occurred to me you working in a county child welfare agency you have a lot more confidence after you through process like this. Menu would otherwise. We've been through this year-long, two year-long process. It gives you a roadmap of what needs to change what he thinks. Let me just double check. Are there other questions you want us to address

>> [Indiscernible] in the chat about working to strengthen local practice by facilitating policy change and training. All of these things work together in the great, the change and how to change systems. They all work together. I was part of the testing process with Wright County and Jessica and what all it is, part of the design of the process is built to create an organic by for making changes. The practitioners themselves can see for themselves what strong about their practice and where things can be enhanced. I feel like that happened with Katie, Jessica, and also with you. There's point in time with community-based times when we had these hot moments. We had these pivotal moments creating by and for the recommendations. Obviously, working to advocate change in state level as well.

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>> Thanks. I wonder if Dan, a lot of people are wondering what we found. I wonder if we could turn there, and Jessica, but you could start us off. In working together this team, what did you find?

>> We came out with quite a few recommendations. We definitely found, lo and behold, we can be doing better work with families and victims of domestic violence. One of the things that stood out for me, we were holding them accountable. We were addressing the batterers hardly at all. In fact, they went off on the wayside and didn't have any accountability at all. That was really unfortunate. So, we really realized in our recommendations we needed to work on that. We found that we are providing a lot of services for the victim which is good. Like I said, we were making the victim accountable for the safety of the children. The second piece that stood out, the passive language we were using. Stating the parents were fighting and a lot of our documentation or that there is a domestic incident versus language that was really strong. Such as dad choked mom and the child had to call 911 which is based Pacific..Specific. We did find that more often than not we were not removing children from the mother's care and we were trusting her to provide safety for her children.'s good recognizing Canada's protective factors. We were eating her in any way we could to provide for safety of the children. We were consistent with that. Again, holding her accountable. Once the children were unsafely put it on her versus the offender. A lot of times, we were not making connections with the advocacy agency unless the victim had done so on her own. Were making connections with the legal system as we could have and should have been doing.

>> Can I just say, if I am on the phone listening to this, or on a computer listening, I would just want you to come to my area and talk to the workers. I think Desmet -- domestic advocate violence work really hard to get child welfare workers to think the way you are thinking. I will just say, hug you through the phone. That's really powerful to me and going through process like this, this is where you can see this. I think that's how you make change. Across the country that's how you make change. You get the people that are doing the work, that really are intending to do good work. Whose organizations, and have to do, you workload, policies, practices, forms to fill out. If you look at all that, it's really interesting to me that you can end up at this place and wonder if you can talk a little bit about what you all found.

>> Jessica mentioned some of the things we were going to do a better job that. Taking the blame off the victim and understanding how the batterer [Indiscernible] in the batterers of violence in the past and the course of control. How are they using the system to continue to use power and control over her. Oddity assess that? How do they do more specifically to do linkages with the system together. How can we hold the offender accountable. Also the other states. Are some of the stuff that needs to be done at the extra local level. West Virginia is doing great stuff with taking a look at how to adjudicate the batterer as the case goes on. Even if she is doing everything the child protection is asking her to do.

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What about the batterer who still is the threat. What are we asking her to do? So I think there were 20 places within the existing forms, we could put in specific language that would say or guide the worker to ask for particular questions. We also recommended [Indiscernible]. Weight cause Jessica mentioned, get intercommunication between the criminal justice system. Was a criminal case going on and the offender even had a probation [Indiscernible]. It wasn't standard that the worker would have communication with probation agent to be able to say, this guy is violating his probation. There wasn't a method for identifying. We can't provide that information without having some agreement with how probations can use it. The victim itself is the only source of that information. That puts her at greater risk. Everyone's life is very constrained by this abuse in some human ways. The system is being used in a multiplicity of ways. Taking a lot of that, in terms of Governors task force, [Indiscernible -- low volume] in her voice about whether we get changes at the extra local level at the State Department level. I think there's an obligation to do so. If they're requiring the use of an antiquated form, the description making tool. Is the national tool everywhere. Its [Indiscernible] on some wrong assumptions. They assume she's co-responsible for the violence. She gets marks against her. Yet, the Department of human services requires the use of that form. The good news, the supervisors know it's antiquated and doesn't really get at what's going on their. They have to fill it out. That something that human services should take a look at. We're going to make some recommendations to them the number of counties to replicate what we're founding in Wright County. We know it's not unique to Wright County. As Jessica mentioned, it's fairly conservative in terms of automatically saying to a woman that's been battered, if you don't you can lose the kids and then she loses the kids. Of course which is the four-story. I forgot what I was starting with. Anyway, there needs to be away of getting the state to use public dollars wisely. To help [Indiscernible] to shift direction on this institution. Not necessarily producing outcomes. Intention of our markets protect children and protect women and the cases of domestic violence and how strongly those two are connected. Can't consider one without the other. We have a report that goes into the chart with a specific changes. That is available. Cynic Jessica, I wonder if you could tell us about the recommendations and also, a little bit more about the recommendations. And let us know about how the implementation process is going? I know people are curious on how you do that?

>> When we came up with implementation or the recommendations, there were quite a few recommendations locally as first changing from the language we were using, changing from the forms we were using, and building some of the relationships and linkages between agencies. Changing our specific intake for, to encompass more questions about domestic violence. Even if it wasn't the subject of the report. Is their history of in the family. Overgeneralizing. Making it more part of the actual family history. Having specific safety plan centered around violence. Having workers specialize in domestic violence cases. I did see her say hello in the chat. Using specific descriptions to identify and talk about

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battering. Holding the offender accountable. And really working with the court system and the probation office on accountability for the offender and the batterers intervention program. A lot of different things that we have been working on word that were recommendations. At least at the local level. Then there were a whole bunch of recommendations at the state level. Initially, our implementation started a little slow. As I mentioned earlier, at the same time that we were finishing up going through this assessment tool and coming up with recommendations, the Minnesota state system had been going through a lot of changes and kind of the Governor's task force had developed. The governor appointed a task force to address the issues within the Minnesota Child protection system and appointed that child task force to address a number of things. In fact, they had come up with 93 recommendations. Some of them were regarding physical abuse some regarding domestic abuse, number of things. At the same time this recommendation came out we were ready with our recommendations and are processed. We were working on implementation but we also had some great recommendations for the state. Just happened to be in sync with one another. It was great timing. There was that window of opportunity to approach the state with our recommendations for change at the state level as well. I think when the reasons and great opportunities to join that workgroup for the domestic violence workgroup which has been very helpful. It was slow at the beginning because some of the legal changes were also taking place and we had to adjust to those changes all the sun. And then we were trying to make some additional practice changes on our end. Subduing all that the same time took a little bit of time. We have gotten some additional funding from the state because of all those changes and we are able to get some positions and we have started to slowly implement the changes. We have a domestic violence worker at this point it's just one worker. It may be more at some point. It's kind of the buzz right now. I am hearing there might be more. It depends on what goes through the legislature. Rose has been working with us to build a linkages with our client attorney offices, or probation agents, and our advocacy agency to really build does strong relationships. And think our domestic violence worker, Nicole, has been doing a really great job in building this relationship. She's been meeting with them regularly on almost every case that's been coming in. And [Indiscernible] of health advocacy agency apply for a grant opportunity. And the support that as well. We had a lot of opportunities that happened to come up at the same time that has really strengthened our process.

>> That is great. Thank you. -- Thank you. Rose cottage with anything else about the recommendations? [ Singing ] --

>> I'm very excited about the fact that there is some funding for the implementation stuff. We had a couple of inner agency meetings with specific advocate and a [Indiscernible] and the advocacy program. There is a draft memorandum of understanding and what information will be exchanged by whom. It just goes back to the model for which I operate. And that is, a lot of people were in communication the

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goal again, is to put it into writing. Let's make it consistent. Let's not rely on that person who knows enough that institutionalize it by putting on paper. This is what we are each can do when to look at cases of overlap. So, I got involved with the Governor's task force stuff. The writing of the MOU on hold. Now we also successfully project assessment tool they develop again, we want to create these tools that will be able to be replicated in other places. Like Jessica said, who started the local level and those will fan out as well there's a new way of doing safety plan that includes looking not just at her safety, but if she states. -- Stays. Would you risk assessments. Anyway, I'm excited about implementation because we have grants funded now and I will be working with them to assist one of their personnel to do with the system change process. Will be meeting with various players in Wright County. Am also going to be working with them. Is important to develop advocacy procedures for what we do as advocates to advocate for that victim in the process. What specifically do we do differently? How do we assess that

>> That's a good place to stop her second. I know mine got some questions in the chat. We have about five minutes to tackle some.

>> With several questions. A color is wondering about the way in which batterer intervention was connect it with the assessment process. Think she might also be asking in general, what are the linkages between child protection and batterers. Neighbor can talk about in Wright County.

>> I can take them on. When the recommendations is a [Indiscernible]. This assessment just looked at child protection practices. As the cases in the system itself. One and ideas was, can we do something to require that offender to get some additional classes in the criminal [Indiscernible]. There is curriculum for parenting after battering. What kind of bold can we put on this batterer as a going Internet process? That is going to be part of implementation. After we developed these working agreements. The partners information, long force, and child protection. We will be sitting down with [Indiscernible] to see what they can do to enhance attention to what he should be doing around us children if he is in a batterer program. That is in the hopper, I would say.

>> [Indiscernible -- multiple speakers]

>> I think there's a few more questions. Can I turn it back over to Maren ? Thanks. Another question, you refer to a critique of the structure decision-making tool, I'm guessing other people are interested in hearing more about. The webinar participation whether those national conversations going on around the destruction -- decision-making tool and virtually advocate, safer listeners on the webinar, and a couple of states like Massachusetts that have been working on revising the structure tool. May be old knows about the national work being done?

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>> Rose, take it.

>> Even at the Governor's task level, everyone in the room, mentioned and facilitated the Department of human services. They say they want to do something about it. Everyone was wondering eyes about it. So I don't know specifically, I would say we work with her coalition. I don't know how you find out. We can find that out, don't you think Maren

>> Absolutely.

>> [Indiscernible -- multiple speakers] sample do that research. [Indiscernible] is typing in the chat. She may have a response this question. Francesca, what you know. You're in the Governor's task force level. What's being done with the structure decision-making toolkit

>> The only thing I've heard about the structure decision-making tools is that they were being revised and as far as I know they weren't going anywhere.

>> Although we're going to be updating them, we're going to be adding tool that is more helpful. I'll also add that I think recommendations came up in the Wright County experience but also in a country where people might have to use a structure decision-making tool. If a new battery is a case, they use a supplemental risk tool. Designed specifically around issues of battering. One parent being battered by her partner. We will do a little bit of research. I have one more question that not straightforward. And I segue to that?

>> Go for.

>> I think this is talking about a dynamic that exists across the country where battered mothers are being blamed for not leaving the situation earlier and then it separated from her child because child protection agency might be in front of tactics of the user. Is screening early and often for domestic violence between the parents and the ways in which risk and danger present itself. Further, when we're looking at risk and danger for different groups of people, for example immigrants, who might have [Indiscernible] that create additional risks and barriers for safety for themselves of the better parent, and protecting their children. I'm wondering if we can talk a little bit about one of the ways the tool and the guide itself is enhanced as a result of testing it out and Wright County. In relation to the the disparity across the country that differently space, so cards built on the Bulls and built into the checklist

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and tools were doing case file and policy analysis. Ways in which child protection can take a more holistic approach that looks at lots of different strength and resilience factors within families and protective strategies look like for different groups of people. All that, what are your thoughts on that -- Alda, what are your thoughts on that?

>> With about 30 seconds left.

>> [Indiscernible -- low volume]

>> Rose, take it.

>> I wanted [Indiscernible] because I think Lauren mentioned the [Indiscernible]. I went to say child protection can't do everything. One of things we noticed, we were getting police responses. On of the cases came from police. And there was bias that had been operating with what people thought in terms of police report or not getting enough information about the child or that sort of thing. I just want to make that comment. Jessica, do you want to respond to the question in your take on it?

>> Sure. I think part of it is almost a paradigm shift. A lot of times in domestic violence cases, we did not remove children. There are very few I think [Indiscernible] and Rose can talk to this. Very few cases did we ever remove children because of domestic violence. One of the cases was a case of domestic violence and became a significant drug abuse cases. The kids were removed for those reasons as well. Not just the safety factors. And other cases, we helped [Indiscernible]. So, a lot of times it was a fear of radical thinking. It wasn't even an option. It wasn't within our realm of possibility unless it was so severe that the parents could keep that child safe. So, we worked with the victim and helped build those protective factors. If law enforcement was involved, great. All the more reason to work with them and probation to radically. Again, we did find were doing it as often as we could. Luckily there were [Indiscernible] in place. Kept the offenders out of the home. At least for time being where we can help the victim and children get separate housing or look at other support. Who works with them that way, 10 usually resolved it. Who works with battered women shelters, but we found a lot of times, specifically speaking is common across the country on protective factors. Would today have what do they access. 40 start with your thinking on [Indiscernible] cases.

>> That takes us to the end of our time. So, I want to remind everyone that if you are interested in this tool and you haven't gotten a copy of it, you can get it on [Indiscernible] international website. We do provide technical assistance and training on the use of our institutional analysis tools. Our next webinar is on October 4 and it's assessing for core practices and criminal justice system responses to domestic violence. We will be talking about another guide we have developed. The best practice assessment



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guide. We will focus on how to communities have used it to analyze 911 and patrol response to domestic violence. I just want to say, thank you very much to rose and just, for being our guest today and talking about their community use of the child welfare response tool. I want to thank Liz and Maren for their technical support and chat in question support. And thank you all for listening to our call today.

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