

We will begin shortly. While you wait...

Retooling Your Coordinated Community Response: How Institutional Analysis can transform your approach to system reform

with
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Casey McGee, Consultant

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**RETOOLING YOUR COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE:
HOW INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS CAN TRANSFORM YOUR APPROACH TO SYSTEM REFORM**

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Presenters

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- Olga Trujillo, Senior Program & Training Specialist
- Casey McGee, Institutional Analysis consultant
- Maren Woods, IATA Program Manager

Origins of Community Assessment

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- Drawn from the work of Canadian sociologist Dorothy Smith – Institutional Ethnography
- Ellen Pence applied it to an examination of how the criminal justice system responds to cases of domestic assault - the Praxis Safety and Accountability Audit

The Community Assessment has...

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- Analyzed racial disparity in child protection services
- Examined criminal justice and community-based advocacy response to sexual assault of Native women
- Examined community response to battering in remote Alaskan villages where law enforcement response is days away

Community Assessment

A systematic method of analyzing how specific features (e.g., safety and accountability) are or are not incorporated into the daily work routines of practitioners

A Community Assessment....

- Is *not* a performance review tool
- Does *not* assess individual effectiveness
- Will *not* help you finally remove that troublesome judge
- Is an inquiry into the **institutional response** to domestic violence or sexual assault: how we are organized and coordinated to think about and act on cases

9 FOUNDATIONS:

Finding the Gaps

Finding the Gaps

10

What do I need right now?
vs.
How is the institution responding to my needs?

Goal of a Community Assessment:

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- See how, where, and if institutional practices ensure safety and well-being for victims and accountability of offenders
 - ▣ Does this practice enhance or diminish safety and well-being?
 - ▣ Does this practice enhance or diminish accountability?

Sample Assessment Questions

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- How does the way we process cases involving domestic violence incorporate victim safety and offender accountability?

- How do U.S. legal systems (municipal, state, federal; civil vs. criminal) work for indigenous women? Do they create safety and accountability from an indigenous perspective?

Sample Assessment Questions

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- How does the design of the visitation center account for the needs of Native American women, children, and families?
- How are women of color made more vulnerable to violence by the design or lack of services in the community?
- How does the process of applying for protection orders enhance or diminish safety and accountability?

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FOUNDATIONS:

Nuts and Bolts

Roles of Assessment Participants

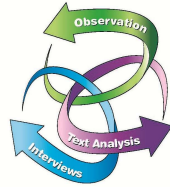
15

- Stakeholder Group
- Assessment Coordinator
- Assessment Team
- Assessment consultant (optional)

Steps in Conducting an Assessment

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1. Select a local audit coordinator
2. Secure agreements with agencies
3. Form and train the audit team
4. Map case processing
5. Collect data
6. Analyze data
7. Generate and articulate findings
8. Implement solutions

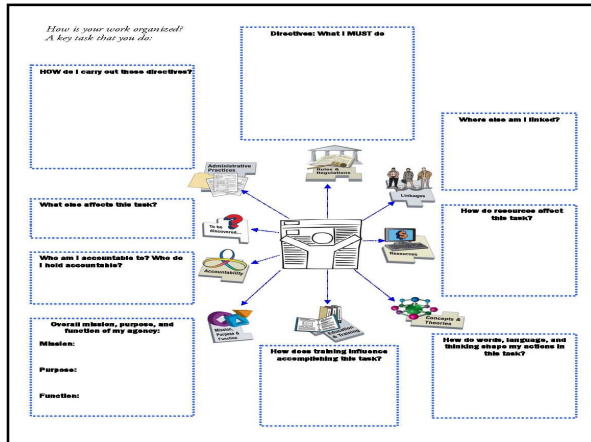


17

FOUNDATIONS:

8 Methods that Organize Workers





20 FOUNDATIONS:

Complexity of Risk and Danger



Policy #1

22

- When someone is arrested for a domestic abuse-related crime (e.g., disorderly conduct, damage to property, or assault), there is an automatic no-contact order as a condition of release from custody. The no-contact order remains in effect until there is a final disposition of the case, which averages six months for misdemeanors.

Policy #2

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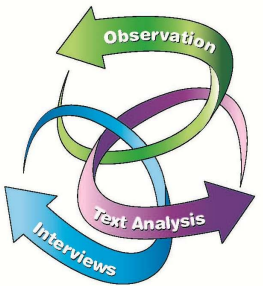
- When someone is convicted of or pleads to a domestic abuse-related crime, the sentence includes a mandatory 52-week batterer program.

Questions?




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25 FOUNDATIONS:
Data Collection

26 Three types of data collection



27 Text Analysis

- One casefile 
- Follow one person over time 
- Many files of similar type 

Focus Groups

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- Useful for:
 - a. Developing assessment question
 - b. Identifying where problems are located within the institution
 - c. Exploring how a practice is/could be a potential safety problem
 - d. Uncovering disparity

Focus Groups

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- Listen and watch for:
 1. Gaps between individual lives & how the institution responds
 2. What's working well and what is problematic
 3. How people are affected by the institution's response
 4. Where to look for more information

Interviews

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- Details of the worker's job
- How tools, forms, equipment, policies work
- Steps they take in each case
- Who they are linked to and in what ways

Observations

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- Not catching practitioner in “a-ha” way
- Throughout data collection, over different shifts & different workers
- Insight into real-time working conditions
- Time for longer conversations with some practitioners
- A chance to reflect on how that point of intervention affects a victim’s sense of safety and offender’s sense of accountability

32 **FOUNDATIONS:**

Analysis and Outcomes

Assessment Etiquette

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- Assume that every practitioner wants to do a better job
- Understand that it is a courageous act for an agency to invite others in to look at its work
- Emphasize the partnership: your mutual roles as team members and as “co-investigators” alongside those you interview and observe
- Avoid judging as you listen

Assessment Etiquette

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- Suspend what you think you know
- Focus on the structure of the job, not the practitioner, as the place for change
- Remember that the goal is to improve victim safety, not to intervene, discipline, or embarrass practitioners or agencies
- Thank practitioners for their time, insights, and contributions to the Community Assessment

Outcome: Findings & Recommendations

35

- **Findings**—framed as a series of gaps in your ability to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable
- **Detailed set of recommendations**—changes in daily practice that closely follow the 8 Methods
- *Public or Private?*
- *Community Gathering or Celebration?*
- *Implementation Strategy Meetings?*
- *Report to OVW?*

Outcome: Relationship Development

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- Reduction in finger-pointing and defensiveness
- Tangible method for identifying and solving problems in safety and accountability

Questions & Wrap Up

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