



## **What is a Coordinated Community Response to Violence Against Women?**

**DEFINITION:** A coordinated interagency response or CCR is the collective act of ensuring that institutions intervening in violence against women (1) centralize safety and well-being for victims/survivors and (2) hold perpetrators accountable while offering opportunities to change.

### **FOUNDATIONS:**

#### **1) Shared philosophy, intervention goals, and commitment:**

- a. Shared definitions: e.g., violence against women, safety, well-being, battering, danger and risk, trauma, accountability
- b. A commitment to collective support and action to secure adequate resources
- c. Protocols and procedures that link interveners across agencies, organizations, and disciplines and that carry the shared intervention goals
- d. A process of identifying problems and implementing solutions that encourage interveners to work together in a strategic manner and utilize dialogue to resolve complicated issues

#### **2) A commitment to shift responsibility for safety and well-being from the victim/survivor to the community and its public institutions**

- a. Understanding the intersecting issues of violence and oppression and building alliances and collaboration with those who are working on these issues
- b. An entity (preferably independent of any public institution) monitors intervention and gathers and assesses data
- c. Using the authority of legal and public institutions to send messages of help and accountability
- d. Written policies, protocols, and procedures that reduce reliance on victims to prove credibility or process the case

#### **3) A central role for victims/survivors and their advocates in defining and evaluating the policies and practices of public institutions and interagency interventions**

- a. Linkage with hospital, law enforcement agency and others to provide advocacy for women/survivors as soon as possible and throughout duration of case
- b. Interagency coordination through (or strong linkage with) community-based advocacy program
- c. Ongoing quality assurance mechanisms to assess impact of interventions

#### **4) Mechanisms for identifying and avoiding unintended harmful consequences and the disparity of impact on marginalized communities**

- a. Tracking and monitoring that identifies disparity of impact
- b. Linkages with groups working with and on behalf of marginalized communities to review proposed changes
- c. Evaluate impact of current practices on subsequent agency outcomes, i.e. whether sexual assault victims are dropping out of school, battered women are being arrested or losing their children in child protection and custody cases, etc.

#### **5) Multifaceted leadership that includes a coordinator to organize the work of the CCR, practitioner leaders within each agency, and key decision-makers and champions**

- a. Empowered to and provided resources to become skilled in organizing the community to accomplish the three key tasks: Identify problems/gaps, implement solutions, and evaluate/monitor for change
- b. Engagement activities to inform, consult, and involve the community regarding the impact of specific agency activities