

Praxis International - Rural Technical Assistance on Violence Against Women  
**Risk and Danger: Helping to "connect the dots"**  
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*with Denise Eng, Praxis International, Blueprint for Safety, Connie Sponsler-Garcia, BWJP*  
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Hello everyone. Welcome to this rule building blocks webinar. Offered by Praxis International and the office on violence against women. The webinars feature the components of affection -- advocacy that improve outcomes for victims and accountability for offenders. These trainings are intended to provide in-depth perspective and thinking on relevant issues from national and world experts in the field. I am Liz Carlson. I am the program specialist here at Praxis, absolute office. I'm thrilled that you are able to join us today for our session. Today's topic is risk and danger. Helping practitioners to connect the dots. To get you oriented to that session, I would like to see that our summary for today's topic is when practitioners in the criminal justice system attend to -- purposes for victims and intervenors. Their data -- disadvantaged by system that has historically not gathered, interpreted and disseminate information in a coordinated way. Overtime CCR across the country have been working to address the system's inability to connect the dots. So, with that, I would like to just say I am thrilled to be joined by our speakers today. Connie is with us today from BW JP. She is the training and technical assistant manager there. Hello Connie. Welcome.

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Thank you. Welcome.

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And my coworker, and our St. Paul office, is Denise. She is a program manager of the blueprint for safety project here at Praxis. And so, Denny's, either?

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I am here. Thank you. It is great to be here with everybody.

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Thank you to both of you. So, as I said, Denny's is a program manager here for the blueprint for safety project. Denny's brings to Praxis three decades of experience in advocacy for battered women. I merely as a legal -- primarily as a legal advocate but also she has expertise in institutional change about community available. She co-managed and developed the St. Paul blueprint for safety in 2008 through 2010. She now manages the blueprint for safety demonstration initiative of Praxis as well as provides technical assistance and institutional analysis to communities throughout the country. Connie is with us from BW JP is a training and technical assistant manager she has been training on the use of risk assessment models and tools for about 10 years. She has been an advocate and she has expertise in domestic violence and sexual assault, commercial sexual excitation issue brings also about 30 years of experience in direct services, program development, systems, institutional change, fundraising and ministration of victim services programs. You have come to the right place, all of you who are logged in today for this webinar. Connie and Denise have a well of expertise to share with all of us today. So before I turn the session over to Denise I would like to touch briefly on a few tips that we always like to pass along to our participants for how to have a good webinar.

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If there are any of you who are participating in this session today by telephone only and you are not logged into the webinar portion of the phone lines will be muted for the entirety of the session. The way in which you will be able to offer your questions and comments to share with the group will be through email. So you should send a note to Liz at [Liz@PraxisInternational.org](mailto:Liz@PraxisInternational.org) whether it is a comment or technical issue use that email address. For the rest of us that are logged in and participating in the webinar itself I will refer your eye down to the lower left-hand portion of the screen where you will see the chat box for this session. That will be a very convenient and accessible way for you to share your thinking with us today. I will keep an eye on it throughout our session. I will do my best to get your comments and questions woven into the dialogue between Connie and Denise. So don't be shy. That is available to you at any point.

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If you would like to chat in a quick hello or tell us where you are participating from today whether or not you have colleagues that are joining you on this session, feel free to use that chat box now. There is a public tab and you will be chatting to the whole group. It's always good to get the orientation of who we are all together with. If you happen to have an issue that you would like to chat privately with myself or one of our speakers you will notice a tab this is

private. If you open that out there is a list of pre-dispense and speakers. Double-click on one of the individuals listed there and that will open up a private communication between you and that person. That is available to you throughout our session today as well.

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If you happen to get disconnected either for your telephone connection with webinar connection simply rejoined through your original process. We always like to let you know that this session is recorded and will be posted on the roll archive page of the Praxis International website. So it will get posted there tomorrow. Feel free to revisit it with your colleagues who perhaps are not able to join us today.

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So, with that, I would like to just remind you all that yesterday for all of the registered users, participants for this session, I sent emails about -- and about six resources that hopefully you all received that ranged from training the most to practitioner slides on risk and danger to also some checklists that BW JP has put together. If there are any of you on the session now that don't have those materials feel free to send a note to Liz at Praxis International to [Liz@PraxisInternational.org](mailto:Liz@PraxisInternational.org). I will than those off to you. That will be our foundation for our session today.

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With that I'm going to ask Denise to go ahead and get us started.

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Thank you, Liz. Once again I am happy to be here today. I am here to talk with you today about the way in which risk and danger is integrated in the project that Praxis began in partnership with the city of St. Paul and is now working on other communities around the world -- country to implement that became known as the blueprint for safety. Identifying, capturing, acting upon, disseminating information about risk and danger is really fundamental about with the blueprint organizes workers to do within the criminal legal system.

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And QPR folks on the line who don't over the blueprint is where aren't familiar with it, the blueprint is a comprehensive approach to domestic violence criminal case processing. It has a set of policies for each of seven different agencies that handle domestic violence cases. With policies and protocols and all sorts of ways of guiding workers to respond in domestic violence cases. And yet at the same time we actually think of the blueprint not as a set of policies but as a single comprehensive policy because it is a way of bringing everybody together, linking everybody up, getting everybody on the same page and changing the way people work together to handle these cases and one of the ways in which they do that is how they handle the question of risk and danger.

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I want to say that -- will talk about the blueprint but I want to be clear that we're not necessarily promoting the blueprint today and think communities should take a. This is an example that we have developed here at Praxis about how folks can look at this question of risk and danger.

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We have notice for a long time that I think those of us who work in the field have known for a long time that not all domestic violence cases are the same. You don't carry the same set of risks, the context in which violence occurs is that. And yet there is a tendency when the criminal justice system takes the cases of to give the same sort of response. We lump in whole bunch of things together into this domestic violence bucket that are necessarily the same kind of thing. We treat them in pretty much the same way. I think we have developed this understanding over time that is not the most helpful approach that we could take. In addition, at about the same time over the last several years there have been a significant body of research that has been developed into what makes domestic violence cases dangerous.

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There is a whole body of research that now exist that can help to guide workers in figuring this out.

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We think this is really important because, of course, we want to use that information to identify and contain dangerous offenders the other side of the coin, we want to make sure that when it is not called for that we are not having state interventions intruding deeply into people when it is not really needed.

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Of course want to provide some guidance for practitioners who are using scarce resources to try to figure out how to direct them. So that is why this whole notion risk and danger is important. And what it is that we -- white as we are here today to talk about this.

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You should have received an email from this, a document that we call practitioner's guide to risk and danger in

domestic violence cases. This was developed when we did the blueprint, when we had a team of researchers advising us about what kind of interventions were helpful and what were the features in a domestic violence situation that can make a case more or less dangerous.

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I'm going to talk a little bit about what is on the practitioner's guide. And then how to use it in a little bit.

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So if you look at the practitioner's guide that you received an email you can see that along one side there is a little list of ways in which the guide is intended to be used.

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It guides workers to elicit from victims particular kinds of information to document, to engage in discussions with victims, to communicate what it is they're finding to other workers, to be attentive to the factors they are uncovering and using your judgment along with what you uncover to make decisions about how to process cases, recognizing risk dangers are variable and can change. The importance of linking with advocates and that sort of thing. There is this list of ways in which the guide is intended to be used.

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On the right side of the column you can see a list of acts or threats of violence that are associated with risk and lethality. These are actions that are taken by the offender that are associated with increased risk of continued violence or even dangerous or lethal violence. The way that we put this site together if you see some of these points are italicized, those points that are italicized those of the research tells us or associated with risk of potentially lethal violence. The others that are not italicized tended to be associated with risk of dangerous violence or continued violence.

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And an on the other side of the practitioner's guide you will see another list that talks about the accompanying circumstances surrounding the relationship or the situation that can indicate risk or danger.

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Again, you see the that has italics for those features that surround a relationship that are associated with increased risk of potentially -- potential lethality and another list that shows increased risk of continued violence.

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I think some of these are not surprising. Some of them might seem counterintuitive but you can use this list to help you capture and illuminate what is going on in the relationship.

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And then you can see on the other side, the right thigh, there are a couple of other sections here. One of them is one of those situations where circumstances that indicate increased risk of homicide/suicide where the offender will kill the victim and then killed himself and then the other list is for women who kill their male partners for this is intended to help us understand when a battered woman might be fighting back and potentially might be at risk of killing her partner.

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This document is intended for any practitioner to use. You can put it on your desk. You can use it to look for the features that are indicated on here. Capture this in reports and then adjust what you do accordingly.

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You also should have received a training memo that talked about how to use the practitioner guide to risk and danger. One of the points that want to make about the ways in which the blueprint uses -- response to the whole notion of risk and danger, it doesn't use a series of actuarial tools although it is grounded in research is not something designed to measure something and have you come up with a number that will tell you something about risk and danger there are some of those tools that are out there that are very useful. I think on is going to talk with you more about some of those when she has a chance to talk here. Some of those can be used within the blueprint. It uses a couple of different methods. One of them is to engage with victims in a way that invites disclosure. So that workers can learn more and better information about what is going on in the relationship that can help paint a picture of the violence.

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The other is to try to capture and organize information about what is institutionally known about the offender. So that you can look at a variety of records and try to gather information and capture it write it down and send it to the next person what you do based on what you're learning.

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And so did you look at the training memo on risk of major first of all this gives you an introduction about what the

document is and how you might use it. But then it has a little chart that helps each worker to understand and -- and uncover how they might use information that is in the practitioner's guide on risk and danger.

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Work sample, in 911 does not unusual for a 911 call taker for a dispatcher to send information to law enforcement in a domestic violence case that will say something like trust accounts at XYZ address. Call takers in the dispatchers are required to gather more specific information under the blueprint that they can then send to law enforcement officers to help them were actively prepare and adequately prepare for what they're going to find on the scene. So that they can help protect themselves and protect everybody the scene from risk of violence. Instead of saying, for example, physical domestic particular address the call takers required to say something like the caller reports her husband punched her in the face three times and he has a gun in the house but she doesn't know where it is. For example, that helps law enforcement be much better prepared to respond. Another has been physical violence. They know something about the nature of the violence and there is a weapon on the scene. So those are the kinds of things that 911 can use to help prepare officers to respond more accurately to risk and danger.

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If there is a 911 call taker and you have the practitioner guide in front of you you can be tuned into what are some of those actions that the batter has taken a that could indicate particular danger that you might want to pass on to the officer.

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Patrol is organized to do this in a couple of different ways. Certainly patrol is going to do things like the alert -- be alert to the presence of weapons and where they are and how they might be used. Patrol be looking for things like whether or not somebody has been injured and the nature and extent of the injury. That can indicate the level of danger. And under the blueprint patrol is also directed to do things like be paying attention to whether there are vulnerable people at the scene like children, elderly people, people with disabilities might be more vulnerable if violence is occurring around them. The primary thing that we want control to do is to help really paint this picture of violence by asking three risk questions.

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Versus do you think of the person could seriously injure or kill your children? Why are one of? Is violence getting worse the frequency or severity?

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Asking the victim to describe the worst and most frightening incident. The way that these questions were developed was -- they were developed in St. Louis County Minnesota which is northern Minnesota, and they were working with the Sheriff's office out there. Initially in the Sheriff's office wanted to look at this question of risk and danger that a series of yes or no questions, kind of checklist, thinking that would be easier for officers to use. Is fairly simple and easy and fairly straightforward but what they found is that officers had their heads buried in the checklist. They were really talking with victims and having a conversation and exploring the meaning of violence act in risk factors.

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They came up with these questions that would really help to paint the picture. Give a window into what is going on in the family or in the relationship at any given point.

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On the benefits of asking questions in this way is that if both people have been alleged to use violence than the question can be asked of both people. Back and will help officers to figure out who the -- who is afraid of whom and why and who is at most risk and likely to do the most harm. These are really foundational questions under the blueprint that we really want patrol officers to do.

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Then under the blueprint investigators who are following up on cases that patrol officers sent to them will have that kind of information. They have a really good picture about what is going on. Have heard from 911 specifics of the scene and can match up what people are saying at the scene from the 911 call taker and then they also can use a series of follow-up risk questions that are based primarily on the Jacquelyn Campbell danger assessment depending on what is uncovered by the questions the patrol officer asked. They can also prioritize your cases based on risk and danger, not just making it.

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On we get the blueprint one of the things we found is that particularly in those cases the suspect had left the scene before police arrived that would what would happen if those reports that often are associated with particularly violent offenders because they know the chances of being held accountable or diminish if they leave the scene so they leave.

Nothing much happens. In part because those reports and at the bottom of the pile. People got to when they were able to work the way through the pile. Now under the blueprint good information about risk and danger from the get-go so officers can prioritize those cases or investigators can prioritize those cases based on what is he that is related to risk and danger.

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They can handle those cases expeditiously and relay information to the evaluator and prosecutors.

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The blueprint requires the jail officer to interrupt attempts to intimidate or harassed victims by blocking the numbers, documenting information in the suspect make or the defendant makes threats to the victim. Those are documented and pass on to other responding officers -- practitioners like patrol officers and law enforcement and prosecutors.

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They also will report violations of no contact orders to the resting agency. If somebody is in custody in the Gospels be having contact with the victim those get reported right away.

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Denise?

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Yes.

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Before we continue on as you are breaking down these rules and the relationships between each entity we had a question that was chatted in privately asking about child welfare staff. How that role fits within this overall framework? That is a really good question. The blueprint is designed for the criminal legal system. And so it is really looking at the criminal justice response to domestic violence cases it is not really taking up that old -- pull child where for system which is a different system. A whole different set of rules that they operate on. Blueprint does do is provides linkages to child welfare by making explicit when officers are required to report, giving guidance about how to respond to children at the scene, whether children have been physically harmed, witnesses, checking with the kids to make sure they are okay. The on that, since this document is really the criminal legal system as a focus, I will say this risk questions that patrol can ask can really help child welfare workers as well as criminal justice workers to get the picture of what is going on in home. We know that the police report is it really foundational document that can end up being used by all sorts of people. I think oftentimes law enforcement officers respond thinking about it in terms of their agency or perhaps the prosecution uses a. We know they can be used in Family Court for custody cases. They can be used in a protection order hearing that they can be used by child welfare. So even though this process is not designed to address the child welfare agency in particular, gathering this kind of information can really help child welfare folks illuminate what is going on.

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And so, I will just cause for another second to say particularly to the person who was inquiring about that if any of you are unable to connect with your email right now we don't have access to those materials that Denise is referencing right now you can also find them on the Praxis website under blueprints for safety materials. That particular page, as you scroll down a bit, you will see the appendices for the guide and for the training memo on risk and dangerousness. So that may be helpful to you if you are interested in those resources now. I should cause here for a quick moment to save that -- continue to chat in any questions or comments that you have and I will keep an eye on it and do my best to ask Connie and Denise to respond. Thank you, Denise. Carry out.

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Okay. That was an excellent question so thank you for bringing it out.

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I am going to skip over these next couple of slides in the interest of time because you can read the slides yourself. You can read the training memo. Most of what I want to talk about is really summarizing what is in the slide. You can see the specific ways each worker is tuned in to look at identify, gather, act upon information that is related to risk and danger that they can pass on to the other person. So for example you can see how understanding and documenting and gathering this kind of information would be really useful for examples to the Bailey evaluator is going to make a recommendation to a judge about bail. I am going to go through to the probation section because that will lead me into the next thing I want to talk about before I turn the floor over to Connie.

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Probation has a really key role in this whole notion of risk and danger. In the blueprint in the domestic violence case when the defendant has been convicted through a guilty plea or trial than it should be a presentence investigation to

inform the court about what kind of sentence the defendant should receive. The presentence investigation often is a very broad look at the defendant's background, circumstances of the crime, criminal history and developing a clear picture as we can about that person's use of violence, intimidation and aggression is really useful to the court when the court is going to make this determination. That will often fostered preparation -- probation officers. Sometimes prosecutors do it but to the extent possible for probation to do this PSI. Of course on the defenders is placed on probation they have the key role to supervise and make sure the person is in the right programming and make sure they are abiding by the requirements of the court, remaining law-abiding and that sort of thing.

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And so I am going to skip over to this slide called the history of DeMello -- domestic violence summary. That is very much related to the probation role. What we did in the blueprint to come up with this idea that we could develop this thing that came to be known as the history of domestic violence summary. You have a blank a copy of that you have received in the materials that Liz sent to you. The idea behind the history of domestic violence summary is to capture everything that we could that is institutionally known about an offender's conduct and about the background and their history that relate to risk and danger. When we were working on the blueprint I remember going round two different agencies and talking to them about what they did to help inform how we were going to shape this up. I found that for example 911 did a criminal record check. And then the Bailey evaluator does a criminal record check and then the investigator and the prosecutor and probation there are all of these people doing the same task. Everybody is repeating the same task seemed like a lot of duplication of efforts.

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Everything about it is when you do that criminal record check find a lot of information that will take, for example, this person is convicted of a particular thing but they don't really tell you what they did. You don't see anything about violence the violence itself is not made visible by just looking at a record check. So what we wanted to do is create this kind of rolling documentary evidence of what people know about the vendors use of violence. For example, when the 911 call taker gets a call from a frightened victim of violence was talking about what their offender is doing it that information is not captured in a particular way to lost to everybody else. The patrol officer arrives on the scene if they are not asking questions like these risk questions and writing them down and making it clear in the report so that not just information about what is happening today, what the person is most afraid of, all of that information will be lost in separate -- to subsequent intervenors.

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We wanted to create a way of making sure that everybody could have access to the same information so we would have to re-create the holy history every single time an offender the defender comes into the system again. There is a captured way to gather this information all the way along.

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We created this thing we call a history of domestic violence summary. It will capture, for example, prior incidents from police reports. If you have -- if you know that this offender that is here today was involved in an incident where there was a report filed a week ago you could put that down. You could file the date of the report and make specific what the acts of violence were alleged in the report. Not just that there was a report filed, what specifically they could. Who is the victim? What with the charges? What happened with them? You could capture that kind of thing. The next time the person comes into the system do the same thing protection orders and rapid restraining orders and affidavits. It is not unusual for people in the criminal legal system 2 back and grab those petitions for a protection order and read what is in it. You can see what the person is alleged to have done. So it directs people to dig up that information and look at it and read it and find out what is known by, for example, the protection order court that the criminal court never knew it but -- never knew about. You see the same thing rolling throughout its history of domestic violence summary sheet with violations of supervision, whether the person with the domestic violence treatment for better and for -- intervention.

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You can get a picture of the violence that everyone can have access to.

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A couple of things about developing this are that of course is required information sharing agreements. The community has to negotiate things like what kind of information is to be included. Where is it going to be kept? Who is going to keep it up? It is intended for probation keep it up all the community might decide someone else is better situation -- situated to do it. How do people gain access to it? Are you going to use only public information here are some confidential information? All of those things have to be negotiated. But this particular tool, we think, can be really, really an important tool in helping workers to develop a full picture of the violence.

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So, with that I'm going to pause for a moment and see if there are any questions and pass it on to Connie.

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Are there any questions in the chat?

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I have not seen any. Just a reminder, don't hesitate, don't be shy, if there is anything that in this has presented on about the blueprints for any of the various roles and so forth if you have any questions or comments please share them with us and we will do our best to get information out to you and you can do that throughout the rest of the session. With that I would like to welcome Connie. Are you still there?

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I am.

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You are quietly waiting your turn.

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Thank you.

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Connie, we go ahead, it was helpful orientation to hear from Denise about the blueprint and Praxis interpretation and best practices but now, of course, we want to hear about BW JP.

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As a mentioned before, I have been doing a lot of information gathering and educating myself about the whole issue about paying attention to high-risk cases, how to identify them and what to do about it once you do identify high-risk offender and a victim who is an increased danger from this offender.

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I have come across so many interesting things. ASMS mentioned, there's a huge body of research available now that was not available to me as an advocate 21st started this work. I never used to pay attention to research. Over the last 10 to 15 years I have started to realize that there are some things that are affirming of what most of us and outfits have learned through experience with battered women. As well as being helpful in coordinating efforts to validate the kind of system change efforts that we might want our community to try.

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I have a lot of context, technical assistance contacts from people who want to know what kind of tools should I use? We want to use a tool to decide who is at high risk.

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At this point I usually say let's back up just a little. Because it is not the easiest thing to try to decide that.

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I am pressing forward but it is not moving. I want to go to the next slide. I am pressing my arrow and it is not going.

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I think where there. Institutional -- autex back there you go.

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The first conversation that you want to have and make decisions about if you're thinking about we want to do some specific type of assessment -- denise talked about how paying attention to risk and danger is integrated throughout the practices of blueprint. In addition, there are some specific kinds of tools that are made to be used in specific places or parts of the criminal justice intervention.

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The first thing to consider is what you want information for?

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I can't even tell you how many times I have asked people what do you do differently now that you have used this assessment process?

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So you have integrated and are doing some sort of formal assessment and now you have the verdict which is all of this information leads us to this offender is really dangerous. And so now what are you doing because of that?

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A lot of times I don't get an answer. Is like well, now we know. Now you know so now what? I think that is one of the key things that community have to figure out -- communities have to figure out. If we're going to collect this information and if we are going to use tool what are we going to do differently in order to contain, monitor, surveilled

the offender or provide enhanced advocacy strategies for the victim?

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How are we going to integrate this identification and risk factors into our institutional practice?

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How do we document it? What are we going to put in place to ensure that the next intervener has access to the information that you just collected or that you just identify?

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I am going to talk a little bit about some of the most familiar tools that are out there.

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I'm going to start with the O'Gara which is the Ontario domestic assault risk assessment. This is an ask question, right on the answers, come up with classification. Is being used in quite a few states in the United States as something that one person uses. And ask questions of victims. MMA attached these answers to the police report. One of the things that I do like about this particular tool is it has a place in their to account for how the officer feels that the victim may have areas of vulnerability. One of those areas can be that they are poor. That they have five children, that they are an immigrant, that English as a second language, they are enabled -- all of those things. How many different kind assault happened today. How long ago did the last one happen? Actually looking at some of her life generated risks that could exacerbate the risk posed to her by the batter.

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This has become legislated in Maine. They did a lot of research about which will do wanted to use. They have cleared this tool along with a high risk response team. They decide by using the tool who high-risk offenders are and they actually have a strategy about what to do that. I will talk more about that in a minute.

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One of the other tools -- i just want to mention I have all of these tools and the rationale behind the use of them so if anybody is interested in getting those tools you can email me or call me and I would be glad to share that information with you.

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The next one is the lethality assessment protocol. It was developed by the Maryland coalition some of you may already be using the lethality assessment article. It is a series of questions the law enforcement asks at each incident they talk to the victim. It has been shown to be predictive of severe future assaults. There are two levels of screening. First they ask I think it is three questions or five and the mask another level of questions. It determines if the victims are at high risk. They connect them with a local advocacy program at the scene.

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I think this is a pretty good protocol because it does what I think is kind of very best outcome which is it connects victims who otherwise may not have connected with Google advocates to make that initial connection with advocates.

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It has been in place now for about nine years. It has been evaluated and in various states. One of the best things about it as I said is in communities that have ailment -- implement to this protocol they have found that the percentage of victims who are screened at high risk who are connected with advocates about 50 to 60% of them actually follow through. Access additional advocacy services.

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It is being widely used throughout the United States right now. If you are interested you can give me a call.

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The next tool I will discuss is these two are basically mostly used by permission. Or pretrial evaluation. Some of you may not have pretrial function in your community, larger cities sometimes have them. Domestic violence screening instrument is predictive of recidivism. It has also been validated and then normed on a variety of populations. Both large cities and midsized cities. It is used by pretrial basically comes in and talks to the defendant and asks questions. They end up getting kind of a category of high risk or low risk or medium risk. It is not about will they show up for their hearing like other bail screening instruments. This is about how likely are they to assault the victim in the short-term.

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The other way it is used is sometimes probation uses this to inform the case management planning. It is one of those examples the talk about where if you're going together a bunch of information and make practitioners gather information then you should be doing something different because you got information.

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Most of the questions on the PDSA rely on public information, police reports, protection orders and violations and that may have a few questions that are asked of the victim. If they can get a hold of them. So making sure that they have a process in their probation department to be able to talk to the victim would be necessary in order to implement the DVSI

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The spouse abuse from assessment was also developed by the same people that two of them I talked about earlier. This is kind of a long assessment that is used by probation in some communities. To use this assessment to basically help them make recommendations to the courts about conditions and also case management strategies, what level of supervision they should have. It is longer than most other tools which is one of the reasons I think some people don't want to use it. It does involve kind of a lengthy -- at least an hour -- conversation with the offender.

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It also involves [ Indiscernible ] factors and they also need to be able to talk [ Inaudible - static ]

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The last one, not the last one, but a lot of people might have already heard about is the danger assessment. I will be interested to know if any of you are currently using the danger assessment developed by Dr. Jackie Campbell in your organization. If you are can you type in that you are? I am finding that more and more advocacy programs are using the danger assessment. In working with victims to help them to do focused safety planning around specific dangers that the victims are facing.

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She developed this about 20 years ago, the original danger assessment tool was developed about 20 years ago to be used [ Indiscernible - speaker out of microphone range ] which as we know about healthcare is confidential. Information is gathered solely from the conversation with the victim helping them to identify various types of abuse that is happened to them.

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They are identifying what was the severity of that abuse and from the information that is gathered you can get a picture of what is the potential for the lethality and also for recidivism and severe assault.

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The one thing about it is it has been normed, the original danger assessment, has been normed for use with heterosexual women. However, in the last 10 years other persons have been developed for the lesbian victims, immigrant women and native women.

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The thing I want to say about the danger assessment is because information comes solely from the victim it is obvious that going to be the best information because victims have the best information about what is going on and how they view the offender from first-hand knowledge and experience.

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Find that a lot of intervenors in the criminal justice system want to hop on the danger assessment training. Because they want that information. That is the best information. It can be problematic. Iowa's like to talk to people a little bit before they start doing it. If you're going to do the danger assessment with victims you really need to look at what context it is going to be developed or used in. And who has access -- who is going to have access to that information. I don't really like to advise that law enforcement use the danger assessment because there are all types of questions on there and when you look at it and you realize this could become attached to a public record i.e. the please report, it will become part of the court record and be open to the public defender and also to them probably to the offender.

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So you have to pick carefully anytime you're going to start implementing a tool where you're going to get information from a victim and who is going to see this. Who is going to see it now and who could potentially see it leader. Could be subpoenaed? Let's say two years down the line could this information be subpoenaed by a family attorney for use in a custody case? Could trigger some sort of other investigation? Did the victims know who is going to see this information? Do they know where it is going? Are they really informed about that? If this is a tool that you are sharing with other people in the criminal justice or civil arena do they know who is going to see this?

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This is one issue I think is not as -- address will clearly. I think when people start to implement tools there like let's do the tools without thinking about we are asking victims with some of these tools to give us a lot of really personal and private information. Some of which could be harmful if it got back to the defendant. Some of which might be harmful to them in other types of legal situations.

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Another criminal, legal response model to high-risk offenders -- these are fairly new, I would say within last maybe five or seven years, there is a domestic violence high risk team. Like you say, some of you might already be doing something like this. High risk team is a multiagency team usually they are going to have the advocates, prosecutor, probation and maybe law enforcement. They're going to review high risk offenders. What that means somebody deserted and determined that they are a high risk offender. Which is that somewhere in that intervention to have already done some sort of assessment and determined that this person is a high risk offender.

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The multiagency group develops a response plan. This is an example of now we know you're dangerous and now what are we going to do? Including coming up with surveillance and what kind strategies we are going to use for monitoring, what kind additional advocacy support does victim the?

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The next one is called the offender focused occurrence. That means we are getting attention to the offender. There is a pilot program that is going on right now in North Carolina where they have developed a program with a focus on the offender. The intervention begins with the first problem. They have developed this kind of major of response. On the first, whether or not -- even on the arrest -- we are putting you on a list and watching you. The second call the going to the B list. They actually tell them we are now watching you and you have been arrested and here is what is going to happen. So to have this very kind of clearly laid out different levels of sanctions of surveillance. They are going to increase with each offense.

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They offer this enhance advocacy strategy called cocooning which is where they have helped the victim really identify strategically and specifically where she will get support. And who will help her with her safety planning. Specific name's like this neighbor is going to help do this. It will pull together for two sisters and her neighbor and maybe some what he from her church. They will talk about the specific safety planning strategies. They also have an interesting process to get some color, with a have what is called a community intends panel. The once you get to level C which means it is for second arrest they may call you when to go to a community impact panel. This is where they have people from the community talk about how the violence in the community affect them.

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How to fix the children and their general safety. Trying to give a community message of accountability to the offender.

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Another criminal legal response are intense supervision caseloads. This is a probation function were high-risk offenders -- they have nubbin I've identified and their on increasingly strict surveillance. I know of one community where they are increasingly restrictive probation condition and have resulted in the fact that they have like, I'm going to say, 5% recidivism. For the DD offenders thereon intense supervision caseloads. I thought that was amazing. How did you do that? She said they are all back in jail.

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I guess that is one way to come down on recidivism. So there holding them accountable to a really strict standard. Who may have curfew, GPS, you a, and anytime they violate, it doesn't have to be another act of violence but for even a technical violation they go back to jail. And said they found this has also served as a deterrent message for other offenders that they are serious here in this community. And that's why we tell you something that is going to happen to you if you continue to be violent or you violate your conditions that the offenders are starting to believe that will really happen.

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Another type of response is divert which is a domestic violence [ Indiscernible - low volume ] where advocates respond with police to DB calls and provide follow-up support and advocacy. They do safety planning and then provide follow-up advocacy as well. They will contact the victim and assist them with whatever short or long-term goals the victim identifies go be helpful for them perhaps getting an order for protection or explaining to them what is happening in the criminal arena.

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There are a lot of models here. As Denise said, you can integrate one of these if you're trying to do something like the blueprint or you can decide you want to try to pull one of these models together to present to people in your community.

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You can ask me for more information or even referrals to communities that are currently employing some of these institutional strategies. I want to talk just for Mike last couple of minutes about the project that we worked on called the domestic violence homicide prevention initiative.

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There were 12 communities where violence applied to be part of this new project.

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As part of that we were a consultant on the project and we have developed some checklists called accounting [ Indiscernible - low volume ]. What we saw is that anywhere you want to put in a risk assessment tool there are other things you have to figure out as well. And one good example is we have communities who were saying that they wanted the police to do a risk assessment. That was going to be their main goal. And that we did an analysis of their police reports and found out that they were not making consistent and well determined dominant aggressor decisions.

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If you have a Police Department who cannot effectively determine who is the predominant aggressor when you have dual allegations of abuse, asking them to do a risk assessment with the victim could turn out to be extremely problematic.

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We began to look at when you are accounting for risk and danger there is the institutional part about having some best practices in place that don't already further endanger the victim because of the intervention. As well as identifying high-risk factors that the offender poses to the victim.

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Tried to merge together a checklist that looked at how can intervention itself do a better job in terms of understanding the context of violence in responding appropriately? And how can they start identifying in their practice what behaviors are situations provide increased risk to the victim? How can we -- get them to document and pass it on? Maybe use a risk assessment tool as well. So we have a whole bunch of checklist starting with 911 all the way through batterers intervention. We also have one for protection or quartz and advocacy programs. And they are going to be up on a new website at the end of this week. You can see that we have our website there.

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I think you got one of them, the deal and booking on. Like is that, we have one. You can use it to look at what is currently going on. You don't have to do a lot of analysis. It is not going to tell you how to fix the situation, that is another webinar, or you can call Denise and she can help you with that.

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It will help you identify some areas in which you probably need some institutional or systems change. In order to make your response more victim centered and also to provide more ability of the system to hold it offender accountable. That is about it for now. I know that is a lot of information and a lot of titles, a lot of specific tools. My goal was to give you an overview of the types of strategies that are being used right now.

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That was perfect. Thank you so much, Connie. Just a couple of things that I wonder if we can touch on.

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As you said, the checklist, the range -- i think DW JP has as many as a dozen checklists.

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Maybe.

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Could you give us all directions on BW JP? Do have an idea where they will be posted on the get up on the new site?

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That is something I don't know. We have a brand-new website and are what people are actually trying to decide -- they will probably have their own section we have a section on risk assessment so it will probably be in that session -- section. I can also send you the location on Friday once they are up.

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Sure. Okay.

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If that will be helpful.

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Certainly. Connie, you can feel free to send that to me and I will get it out to everyone or if any of you would like to email Connie directly and reference the checklist, risk and danger assessment checklist -- checklist that you are looking

for she can give you that information once they are posted on the website. Let's see, a couple of other things. I wanted to give you the heads up, Connie, that your sound is cutting in and out a little bit.

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Okay.

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That is what I fear. I think manageable for everyone.

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It is probably when I turned my head.

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Probably. That sounds better.

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We have about 15 minutes or so until the end of the session. There were a few things that came up for me as the two of you were talking that it wanted to check in with you about. To all of you participants, certainly chat in any questions or comments that you have in the last 15 minutes of our webinar today to either Connie or Denise, but I wondered if I could just ask both of you various questions to get some more information about communities doing assessments and about checklists and so forth? One of the things I wondered about is if either or both of you could provide our listeners any sort of recommendations that you might have about how they could best do an assessment of their community about the current responses are? Around risk and danger?

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Is there any tool that you know of that might be a good kind of springboard?

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This is Connie. That is kind of why we developed the checklist. Is kind of an easy way to look at it and say are we doing these things currently? Do we have this kind of response already integrated into our criminal justice response? And also civil response? Or are these things we need to look at? It is a good way to have your coordinating committee response also start figuring out what might we need to enhance or do better? And then I know you have practiced checklists as well.

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Yes prospectuses Denise. I was thinking exactly the same thing. I was thinking about your comment that when you're looking at this whole notion of assessing risk and danger and how you do it one of the first questions is what is that you are trying to accomplish? I think you are trying to figure out some baseline where are we the checklist is a really good place to start. And I think use of checklist like the one you guys have developed would be really useful. Related to that is the question of checklist versus narrative form like the blueprint does. I think -- i should tell you have to use a speakerphone because I have a hearing problem and it is pouring rain -- i hope you can hear me.

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We can.

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Okay. Anyway, I think that checklist provides a certain kind of information and narrative questioning the gathering information from victims and other sources is a different kind of information that can be used in different ways. So for example in the blueprint we are trying to find out information from victims and existing documentation that already exist about what people conduct is like. So I think you how to think about what are you trying to accomplish here? We tried to enhanced services? Trying to figure out if we are looking at this and even considering it? Trying to figure out how to make good decisions? What are we actually trying to do when we are trying to figure out what we should take up in terms of risk announcement -- analysis and assessment.

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Okay. That is really helpful. Most of you -- thank you, to get people oriented after this session with their communities have been considering this -- these questions and starting points to censor community it is really helpful to know that there is something available to guide them. To all of you listeners come as you are sorting through the information that we have provided and you go to D DV JP website in the blueprint for safety website to look at our information if you have questions about sorting through information and the best way to proceed in your community both Connie and the means are available and would be able to respond and get you rolling in a good direction. Right Connie Anthony's I just volunteered you?

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[ Laughter ]

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Yes.

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Good.

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I was just thinking as I was listening to Connie talk about this story that is in the news that is very much related to what we're talking about, I don't know if folks have seen the story of the man in Dallas who just confronted the police and was shot and killed by the police he was a domestic violence offender and he had a lot of back child support and a big custody dispute. It was really interesting because I was watching the news coverage about this story yesterday and it had an expert on they're talking about how everybody was terrified at this guy. Every single person who had encountered this guy to the criminal or civil legal system knew he was dangerous and had a very strong belief that someday something very terrible was going to happen. They said there wasn't really anything anybody could do until he actually took the actions that he did that led to the shooting. It was interesting because I was thinking about Connie's point about how if you're going to collect this information about risk and danger what is it you are going to do about it? Was a situation where they knew they didn't -- they hadn't really put themselves together to connect the dots and figure out what steps they could actually take. [ Inaudible - static ] is probably dangerous. That just kind of came to my mind that that is what we are trying to do here, give people the tools. I don't blame people for think there's something just wasn't anything they could do because they had really developed these kinds of resources that would help them to really uncover this before a tragedy happens.

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That is a good connection. Thank you for that. The other thing that I wondered about is as I was listening to the two of you talk about how to best structure the criminal legal system response with integrating the community-based advocates who are collaborating with how does that fit in this overall picture?

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I think there are a bunch of weight on his -- connie already made the point of the LAPD is designed to make sure that victims who are in a high risk situation are connected promptly to advocates who can give them all sorts of important support information and help of various kinds. I think that is one way. Another thing is that advocates can be really helpful sources of information to people in the criminal legal system with the consent of the victim, of course, that can help them to interpret what is going on in the situation and help them make better decisions about how they can adjust their response based on information they get from victims of violence. What else would you add, Connie?

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I just say ditto. And also saying that I think the whole issue around how advocates plan to increasing safety for victims is sometimes overlooked by communities we rely a lot upon the criminal justice system with the civil legal system but many victims choose not to use those. So if we can ensure that all victims get connected with an advocate or had the opportunity to connect with an advocate it would be beneficial. Research that is out there know about the efficacy and helpfulness of advocacy has shown that it is very possible and that it does reduce we assault for women who have a relationship with an advocate that goes over a certain period of time. I think it was a few weeks that they're talking to advocates working with advocates that improve the quality of life and it does make it safer for many of the victims.

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That would be the piece I would say that if you don't have and advocacy initiated response which is where you get information from the police and you follow-up you don't have an intervention process in your community where you are going with the police to the calls for the police are calling you from the scene I think those are the first strategies I wouldn't try to put in place.

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Yes.

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Thanks for that. I will just also kind of segue into what Connie said and let you all know that on the Praxis website under our library if you select advocacy from the list of topics in our library will see quite a number of resources related to advocacy initiated response and then additionally there is quite a number of other resources on that particular webpage. We also have under current resource -- research information about the application of advocacy on victim responses. Go to our library if you are interested in getting some more information about any of those things if that is helpful to your community organizing or altering your response in any sort of way.

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Can I just add to that, I think Connie is 100% right about that. I just want to add to that is really important that victims have access to a community-based confidential advocate, advocates who are connected to law enforcement prosecutors

office can be enormously helpful for victims. Don't take the place of a community-based confidential advocate the victims can really explore all sorts of stuff that they may or may not be willing or able to share with people in the legal system and the need to understand the difference for their talking to somebody that is not going to share information versus someone who must share information.

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Yes. And so I think Connie and Denise that is an excellent wrapup for our session today. If we can and our topic around advocacy response and the ways in which advocates are so crucial to helping women in terms of risk and danger. Thank you so much to Connie and Denise for your time today. Thank you all of you for participating. We hope that it was helpful and, if not, at least stimulating and help you ask other questions and seek your own community oriented answers. All of you thank you for joining us. I will remind you that these sessions happen monthly on the third Wednesday of each month. Our next session will be 15 July. Go to our will webpage and you can find the topic summary and registration link there. When you disconnect from this session now you will be routed to an evaluation on survey monkey of this webinar. Much more than that, you have an opportunity to share your comments with us in a Broadway about what it is you like or you would like to be different about the trainings that we offer for this will project. If you will, please take just a few moments and share your thoughts. Is very valuable to our programming.

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Thank you everyone. It was a really interesting session and I hope you all take care. I will talk to you again soon. Thank you Connie and Denise.

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Goodbye everybody.

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Goodbye.

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[ EVENT CONCLUDED ]

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