

[insert local community]
Blueprint for Safety

**A United Response to Battering
& Domestic Violence Crimes**

[SUPPORTED BY . . . INSERT FUNDER(S)]

[1]

*“There’s nothing you can do if he wants to
kill her”*

“Nothing can keep him away.”

“It was a classic case of domestic violence.”

[2]

The [Local] Blueprint for Safety: A Collective Policy & Response

- Standing & working together
- Strengthening our response
 - Identify, document, communicate, and act on *risk and danger*
 - Engage with victims
 - Enhance each agency's policy and practice
 - Reinforce accountability within and across agencies
 - Avoid doing more harm
 - Practice ongoing problem solving
- Safer homes = safer communities

3

The [Local] Blueprint for Safety Partners



4

How the Blueprint came to [local community]

- 2007 – 2010: Blueprint for Safety created and tested in St. Paul, MN (and continues today)
- 2011 - 2015: OVW selected 3 communities to adapt the Blueprint & produce a how-to guide
- [INSERT date and key points of local history]

5

Practice Assessment & Policy Writing

- Who was involved?
- What happened?
- The [Local] Blueprint Policy
 - As a collective policy
 - Agency-specific

[6]

Now: Launch & Implementation

- Who is involved?
- What will happen next?
- How will we sustain the Blueprint for Safety?

[7]

The Blueprint for Safety: A fresh, united focus

- Enhance and broaden our community strengths
- Better position us to minimize lost opportunities to intervene
- The next wave of change
- Grounded in the gains made locally, statewide, and nationally in the past 30 years

[8]

Research supports the Blueprint approach

1. Coordinated work across and within agencies increases protection
2. Outcomes improve when the system treats a domestic violence case as part of ongoing pattern of criminal activity vs. a single event

9

Research support, continued

3. Clear and consistent messages of offender accountability and victim safety can reduce violence.
4. Sure and swift consequences for offenders can reduce recidivism and the severity of future abuse.

(10)

Scope & scale of domestic violence in [Local]

DEVELOP basic statistical picture, including:

- Calls to 911
- Proportion of police work
- Prosecution & probation data
- # crisis calls – data from community-based organizations
- Etc.

[11]

The faces behind the numbers



[12]

The Blueprint principles

1. An interagency approach and collective goals
2. Attention to context and severity of abuse at each step
3. Domestic violence as a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement
4. Sure and swift consequences for continued abuse
5. Messages of help to victims and accountability to offenders
6. Reduce unintended harm and disparity

13

1. Interagency Approach

- Common goals
- Orientation to the people in the case
- Position each other for the most effective intervention
- Linked tools to document & communicate information about risk & danger

(14)

2. Context & severity

- Not all “domestic violence” is the same
- Different
 - Types of domestic violence
 - Levels of severity and dangerousness

[15]

Different **Types** of Domestic Violence

- **Battering**
 - Ongoing... pattern... targeting
- **Resistive**
 - Used by victim of battering
- **Non-battering related**
 - Mental illness... trauma... anti-social...

[16]

Different Levels of **Severity & Danger**

- What makes this case dangerous?
- Who is doing what to whom and with what impact?
- Making history and context visible: making the *pattern* visible

(17)

The Risk Questions

1. Do you think he/she will seriously injure or kill you, your children, or someone else close to you?
 - What makes you think so? OR What makes you think not?
2. How frequently does he/she intimidate, threaten, or assault you?
 - Is it changing? Getting better? Getting worse?
3. Describe the time you were the most frightened or injured by him/her.
4. Have you ever been threatened or intimidated by him/her for seeking help or attempting to seek help from police, the courts or others?
 - If yes, who, when, how?

18

3. Continuing Engagement

- Characteristics of battering: entrapment
- Establishing a partnership over time
- Key elements in engagement:
 - Treat people well
 - Give them some power
- Build cases (i.e., lessons from organized crime)

[19]

4. Sure and Swift Responses

- Set boundaries with batterers
- Contain resistive violence without strengthening batterer's position
- Recognize specific conditions

[20]

5. Messages of Help and Accountability

Toher, (to counter messages of battering)

- There is help for you... (*nobody is going to believe you*)
- Keep using us... (*call them and see who ends up in trouble*)
- This isn't your fault... (*this is ALL your fault*)

Tohim, to counter battering

- If you push the boundaries we will tighten them not widen them
- If you stop abusing, we will help you
- If you don't stop we will make you unhappy

To the children

- It's not your fault
- You can speak
- We are here to help, not hurt your parents

(21)

6. Avoiding Unintended Consequences

- Executing Warrants
- Forcing victims to testify
- No-contact orders
- Enhancements that give young people felonies
- Harsh punishment
- Not recognizing illness

(22)

What changes? As a result of the Blueprint...

We are better positioned to identify:

1. Wide range of D.V. related crimes
2. Witness intimidation
3. Crimes against children
4. Witnesses and their whereabouts
5. Battering cases from non-battering cases

(23)

As a Result...

We can make more use of previously undercharged crimes:

- Stalking\Harassment
- Terroristic threats
- Witness tampering
- Crimes involving children
- Crimes involving sexual assault
- Burglary

(24)

As a Result . . .

- 911 & patrol increase information about who was at the scene
- Prosecutors will have more witness interviews
- Details on the context of the event & the kind of domestic violence occurring are documented & communicated
- More investigation on serious misdemeanor cases

{ 25 }

As a Result . . .

- More structured use of risk factors when reviewing and making charging decision
- More potential for a broader range of charges based on defendant's behavior

{ 26 }

As a Result ...

When the suspect is GOA (gone-on-arrival) / has fled the scene:

- Quick review of police reports contributes to improved victim contact & participation
- Focus resources on cases with merit
- Investigate a case with prosecution as the goal

{ 27 }

As a Result ...

- A framework for bail conditions:
 - Reflect risk & danger
 - Include victim input whenever possible
- Swift consequences for violation of conditions of pretrial release

{ 28 }

As a Result . . .

Probation will:

- Have reliable, efficient access to information regarding the probationer
- Be better able to assess risk
- Be better able to differentiate the context and severity of the particular case
- Be more likely to recommend a sentence which is consistent with the plea agreement
- Be more able to respond in a swift, sure manner to probationer's actions

[29]

As a Result . . .

Judges will have more detail on the type, scope, and severity of violence occurring . . . i.e., the whole pattern & severity of abuse

[30]

As a Result . . .

Across the criminal legal system, decisions and judgments are based upon a more complete understanding of the risk and context of a particular case

[31]

This project is supported by Grant No. 2010-TA-AX-K008 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.