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Improving Responses to Domestic Violence with the Blueprint for Safety

Amalfi Parker Elder

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>> Good afternoon and welcome. Thank you for your patience as we had a small delay due to technical difficulties this afternoon. My name is Amalfi Parker Elder and I am the training and programs specialist at Praxis International. I'm joined by my colleague Liz Carlson who will help with the technical aspects of today's webinar. Liz, would you tell us a little bit about the webinar details today before we introduced our guest speakers?

>> I would be happy to. Hello and thank you for joining us today. Just a few logistics to help pave the way for your participation in today's -- participation in today's webinar. You notice at the bottom of the screen there are live captions. If you happen to notice an error, don't be described in -- don't be distracted by that. Mistakes are possible. I would like to call to your attention in the middle column of your screen you see a box that says Q&A. That is your opportunity to pass along your thoughts and questions at any point during the presentation as the audio portion is muted for you all. Utilize the Q&A box at your own discretion. Your comments will be passed along to the presenters who will reply or respond within their presentation. And Amalfi will remind you as well to utilize the Q&A box because we want to get your thoughts and know what is on your mind. In each of the webinar boxes on your screen you see a light gray icon on the far right hand side. That is the icon to utilize to make adjustments to the display on your screen. Use that to your own preferences. If you happen to be connected by Internet audio or Voice over IP -- by voice over IP and you notice a low quality of the audio, you are welcome to join by telephone at any point. If that is necessary for you, as soon as you make that phone connection, you can turn the speaker volume off on your Internet audio. This session is being recorded and will be available to you to refer back to or share with your

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colleagues next week. You will find it on the Blueprint website page under the recording tab. And finally, if you have questions or issues with technology, feel free to send a comment in the Q&A box to the webinar host, Patricia, or myself. With that, Amalfi, I will get us started on the guest presenters slide and you can introduce our speakers joining you.

>> Thank you, Liz. We are pleased to welcome our guests today. We have Jud Patterson and Jennifer Brown from Madison County Kentucky. Jud is the county attorney in Madison County and the head prosecutor . Jennifer Brown is the county attorney office victim advocate. Jud has been practicing law since 1999 and was formally an assistant prosecutor in the county attorney's office for six years . Jennifer has been a victim abacus in the office for 14 years. We also have with us today Jason Mack who is the executive director of the Minnesota committee against domestic abuse known as CADA. And Jason is the Blueprint coordinator of the Blue Earth County , Minnesota Blueprint for Safety. Jason also serves as a community liaison of the domestic abuse information network and the southern Minnesota offender education program as a coordinator and facilitator.

>> And finally we have Nelle Noble who is the domestic violence and sexual assault program director for the city of New Orleans health department where she works in both the DB and sexual assault fields as an attorney and social worker and provides continuity for the coordinated response to DB and sexual response. We will hear from our speakers after a brief overview of the main learning objectives for today's presentation and a snapshot of the work that went into developing the Blueprint for Safety. Our learning objectives for today are before you. Many communities have become aware of the Blueprint for Safety since its inception in 2010. They may have used various Blueprint policies or other materials or attended an event or training to learn about the project. We have often heard over the years from CCR's interested in the Blueprint it may be too big to take on. Or they may have some hesitancy about the readiness of the community to do this work. This webinar is a starting place to answer some of these concerns. We invited our guest speakers to share their experiences with different aspects of Blueprint work at various phases of the Blueprint process

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to offer CCR is a new way of thinking about the Blueprint for Safety and offer practical examples how will any CCR may benefit from engaging with the Blueprint for Safety whether or not your community decides to take on full print implementation. Our speakers will be exploring interagency collaboration including information sharing, new ways of communicating, working together in workgroups, conducting practice assessments, the Blueprint monitoring process which involves interagency team activities, what to do with findings from assessment activities and how to organize the efforts, and also the Blueprint approach to risk assessment including the Blueprint risk questions, the impact using the questions have on law enforcement response, and how to integrate this Blueprint risk approach with any existing methods of risk assessment that a community may already have such as [Indiscernible]. And the speakers will talk about strategies for supporting agency buy-in for blueprints over time.

>> The Blueprint for Safety essentially, what is it and why do CCR's needed? It's a very brief overview.

>> On this slide, the pathway to print -- to Blueprint leads to the development and formation of Blueprint. 10 years ago a doctor who was a strong visionary and inspirational leader in the work to end violence against women and a pioneer in the development of what we now call the CCR had a big idea. She came to realize the CCR model while helpful in reducing violence was not realizing its potential for leverage in the response to address terrible violence that affect so many citizens. Victims were still falling through the cracks in the method was needed for the system and advocates to work together to identify and understand how these cracks or gaps in the system response evolved, how they impact survivors and how practitioners and advocates work together to close these gaps. She was already working with the city of Saint Paul which he envisioned this comprehensive approach to domestic violence that will encompass every agency and every worker who handles a domestic violence case. Thousands of practitioners, and the city of Saint Paul asked for and received funding from the Minnesota state legislature to develop a framework, a plan, and method to maximize the ability of the

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criminal legal system to respond in a way that would reduce violence, to obtain violent offenders and save lives. The city contracted with Praxis to develop this framework.

>> The Blueprint -- the city of Saint Paul started to do this work to develop what became known as the Blueprint and Praxis worked within the community to make sure that each worker in the legal system receives as much information as possible on how to identify potentially dangerous offenders and be positioned to intervene effectively. A lot of what went into developing the Blueprint will be talked about by our speakers today as they describe what the process is of engaging with practitioners to fully understand what it is they need to do their work. Some questions that were asked of practitioners when the Blueprint was being developed things like what did they need in order to do their jobs effectively? What information resources to they have back S2? What makes the job easier and more effective that they don't have? And what did they document and transmit to others? They went to each agency 911, law enforcement, the jailers, prosecutors, court security, probation officers and everyone who handles a DV case to look ways to close gaps in information sharing and coordination of response. Praxis and Saint Paul team talk with experts around the country and were advised by a team of researchers. They collected every policy on the response to domestic violence they can find around the country and combed through them for effective and innovative practices. They also conducted dozens of focus groups with survivors to learn from them directly about what was helpful to them and not helpful in the criminal and legal system response. Every step of the way, advocates were involved to ensure what they did accounted for the survivor experiences. It was a comprehensive, single policy approach to domestic violence. It was followed by a general version of the Blueprint designed to be adapted by other communities which is the Blueprint template that all speakers are familiar with, have worked with and will be speaking to today. Although I won't go into detail about what's in front of you on the slide, all the work I described that led into the Blueprint became the distinctive features of what we say makes the Blueprint distinctive from a typical CCR.

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>> Taking on the Blueprint, a tale of three cities. We will now hear from our guest presenters on their experiences with taking on the Blueprint for Safety. I will give a brief description of each community and then we will hear directly from our presenters.

>> Madison County Blueprint for Safety originated in the city of Richmond which is in Madison County . The city of Richmond began as Blueprint work in early 2016. Richmond has a population of about 34,652. And organizers realized early on they need to include the Madison County agencies and the county in its entirety in order to have the most effective response to domestic violence incidents. The entire county came on board in Richmond in Madison County. The county has a slightly larger population of about 87,824. It's a rural setting in the southeast ordered by the Appalachian Mountains and covered with Kentucky bluegrass and is characterized with true southern charm and hospitality as I know from conducting site visits there. The population is primarily white and about 92% are white, 5% African-American, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian. Madison County is well known for the famous pioneer legend Daniel Boone as well as the second-largest Civil War battlefield in the country. Thank you Jud and Jennifer for joining us from your community and we will hear from you in a moment.

>> The city of New Orleans is located in Orleans Parish, Louisiana. New Orleans is one of the first sites to adopt Saint Paul's work after Saint Paul launched its Blueprint in 2010 . New Orleans is celebrating its 300th birthday this year. It is diverse, large, urban, and approximately 391,495 individuals lived there and 60% black, 34% white, 5.5% Hispanic, and 3% Asian. It's well known for its music, food and celebration. New Orleans started its Blueprint work in 2011 , launched in 2014 and since that time it has seen a number of transitions and Blueprint leadership that has resolved to stay on the pathway and continues to use the Blueprint to strengthen its resolve for domestic violence crime.

>> The city of Mankato is in Blue Earth County Minnesota. The local advocacy program that I mentioned when I introduced Jason as the committee for domestic abuse, this group received the STOP grant to implement the Blueprint in 2011. At the time it was already part of a coordinated community response covering all of Blue Earth County so the entire county

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joined the process there. Nestled in the heart of the Minnesota River Valley, Blue Earth is a small rural county all -- known for its 368 miles of rivers and lakes. Their population is around 65,787. It's very similar in demographics to Richmond, Kentucky. Blue Earth County is home to 11 cities and 23 townships. There Blueprint for Safety is working with lots of different agencies. Jason will talk more about that. Blue Earth County developed a policy book and launch the Blueprint in December 2012. Thank you all for joining us today. You can go to the next slide and we will start by hearing from Jud and Jennifer talk to us about their experience and conduct key -- in Kentucky doing Blueprint. I wanted to give some description of each site and the demographic and to paint a picture to convey to you all listening how diverse the communities are doing Blueprint and how Blueprint can be done in any community, no matter what the size or makeup or background in history of that community. I hope you see that more as you listen to the speakers today. Thank you, Jennifer and Jud, for joining us. Jada, I want to start with you and say you recently became the county attorney in Madison County. After the Blueprint project initiated, I was hoping you could speak about what it was like for you to come on to the project already underway and what drew your initial interest for the Blueprint for Safety.

>> I appreciate it and glad to be here. Appreciate the kind words about Madison County, Kentucky. I had been an assistant for five or six years before I was appointed County Attorney and in that role I handled the police docket which is the largest police agency in the community. I was familiar in large part with the depth and breadth of our problem which is domestic violence and the difficulty in prosecuting and policing it as well as issues that were part of my life every Tuesday. When I came on board and saw the Blueprint had been proposed I was immediately interested in what it was and what it meant and how it would be applied. In our community, the woman driving the train is a personality that you can't ignore. Jennifer was in charge of bringing the Blueprint to us and the person who circled the wagons and got everyone involved. She's the type of person you want to hear what she has to say and be involved what she is involved in. I was buying into as Jennifer as much as I was the Blueprint. And as that unfolded, I saw the benefit of the process. There is a lot of benefit in

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having the discussion, whether you implement the Blueprint or not, the process in itself is beneficial to the community, at least it was in my initial reaction. Everyone in this office was committed to what was going on.

>> That's great. I'm so glad you brought up Jennifer who is the Blueprint coordinator in Madison County. And that characteristic is really important in a coordinator just for that reason. Thank you Jud. And Jennifer, I want to ask you because you were on as I said in your intro, you are the victim witness advocate for 14 years in the county attorney's office so you are there when Blueprint kicked off in Richmond. What was it like for you as a practitioner working in an agency in the system X you heard about Blueprint and the [Indiscernible] about it?

>> For us it was revolutionary. We have lots of different agencies that touch these cases. We were all working on the same problem but never communicated with each other at all. The Blueprint allows us the opportunity to sit down together and talk about the shared problems in a way and with an openness that we didn't have before. The Blueprint offers you that opportunity. We learned a lot.

>> That's great. Part of the Blueprint process is opening yourself and your agency up to being looked at and talked about and reviewed. I was curious if you had any insights related to what that felt like in terms of being an agency at the table with several other agencies, and Jud, I don't know if you can speak to this or not with your experience with Blueprint so far, that element of vulnerability or openness you need to have to be part of the process, was that difficult for you or how did you deal with it?

>> I had the advantage of coming in as a new official. That advantage opened up the door to discussions that maybe would not be possible otherwise. It was a time when you have a change to lay everything wide open and see how you can do things differently and better. There are no obstacles to that. It was a nice benefit to us for me coming in. The thing I found right away is those discussions built a lot of trust between us and the other agencies. The

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police department said if we put forth the effort will you back us up on prosecution? It seems like a simple discussion but it's full of all kinds of trust issues that need to be worked through. That discussion leads to others that are unrelated to domestic violence but to create relationships or problems in relationships that manifest themselves in this work. You have to work through those issues with your agencies in a way that they trust you will be there and back them up and make the effort. That was the focus of a lot of our discussions was what are we doing at the county attorney's office that may be blocking or getting in the way of what you are trying to do and how can we be a better partner and add value to what you do? That's where we tried to start the discussion from as opposed to saying you need to do this or that or what your training would be. We wanted to be a better partner. As part of that it came back the other way. We were having very fruitful discussions.

>> Jennifer, anything you want to add or remember from the early days of coming to the table with others?

>> I will say in the beginning, you have to take the approach that you can't take criticism personally. Jennifer Laneheart was good about providing us with judgment free zone so we could all talk about it and not be offended. There were things I was doing wrong and that I could do better. I had to make a commitment to hear what they were saying and really search myself to make sure I was doing it the best way I could and not be offended if someone told me I was wrong.

>> Both the points you made are important. The process does build in trust as you go. That judgment free zone is such an important piece of Blueprint in that it's a commitment by everybody to look at how the system is operating and not look at individuals. It's good you personally may have reflected and thought about your own work and that's a good outcome. It's important that people understand these discussions and things that are being discussed is looking at bigger picture of the system and not individuals. I'm glad that Jennifer Laneheart provided that space . It's very important. We will come back and hear more from you in a moment. I'm going to now turn to Nelle and ask you to talk to us a little bit about what's

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happening in New Orleans in terms of monitoring since New Orleans launched in 2013, you have been implementing and monitoring your Blueprint for a couple of years, almost 3 years now. Tell us about what the mayor's working group is and what is meant by the Blueprint monitoring?

>> Thank you, Amalfi. Probably one of the most helpful aspects of the Blueprint in New Orleans is the mayor's working group. It's really an advisory group of high-level officials and agency heads that comes together quarterly to guide and inform the work of the Blueprint. Our group consists of local judges, nonprofit leaders, other city officials and is amazing to have such a diverse group of different perspectives coming together at the table. Convenes quarterly at City Hall. We offer lunch, so attendance has been really good. More than anything, it gives our Blueprint the authority for the ongoing monitoring we are doing. If one of our working group members brings up an issue that could benefit from a bit of a closer look with monitoring, we will pursue that to the best of our ability.

>> When we say the term Blueprint monitoring, what does that actually entail and how do agencies feel about being monitored? I make the shadow quotes that no one can see here.

>> We definitely try to say monitoring and not auditing. We do slip up every once in a while. Monitoring is a review of practices. We see if the agencies that are participating are executing the Blueprint the way we intended when it was adopted. For example, we started our monitoring with a 911 communication. We ended up looking at law enforcement and control response. Primarily the response to LGBTQ citizens. Boast -- both 911 and the New Orleans Police Department were open to the process because they were familiar with activities we do for monitoring. That entails listening to 911 calls, reading police reports and were doing that from the beginning of the project. Also the people who came to the table to participate in the monitoring were committed to that successful and meaningful implementation of the Blueprint policies. It's especially true for our law enforcement. Our local police department is under a federal consent decree that looks at a number of issues and one is gender bias and

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policing. Our Police Department has seen over the last few years the Blueprint benefits their own work. They come to the table very willingly.

>> That is a unique thing where that might have played a certain level of incentive to come to the table. Button app -- definitely with 911 you had a lot of success with monitoring. It was apart from assent degree things. I am wondering for others to get a sense of what the process looks like, if you could describe it for us. As we emphasize different aspects of Blueprint or the process that any community can take on to enhance its [Indiscernible] or make small steps while working towards bigger Blueprint implementation, monitoring which comes in the bigger Blueprint process after launching , like Nelle said simply is a review of practice. Any community that may be taking on a couple of Blueprint essential elements or practices to implement, or maybe you have done training and work in your community and you want to be able to measure that and say is there progress happening? This is the type of process that comes out of Blueprint but can be helpful for any community. Tell us a little about what was entailed in the monitoring of 911.

>> We had heard anecdotally there were some issues with our 911 response. For the monitoring of that agency, we created a team and that team met a total of three times. Basically the coordinator at the time obtained 40 calls coded domestic, sorted through the calls and chose 10 that were specifically related to intimate partner violence. We had nine people at the table. That was people from law enforcement, the District Attorney's Office, local domestic violence nonprofit, the New Orleans family Justice Center and people from 911. At the first meeting, we listened to the calls as a group but did not discuss them at all. We filled out a 911 call review checklist based on the Blueprint policy for 911 communications. We did not speak about it. It came back a couple of weeks later at the second meeting and we reviewed our checklist. We were able to discuss our impressions at that time. At the third meeting, the coordinator presented our review of the findings to the 911 communications district. We also did a total of eight hours of in person observation of 911 call takers. That gave us more context to what they were going through. The coordinator condensed all of the

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findings into a summary report and presented that to 911 and our working group. The work did not stop there. There was a lot of follow-up. The coordinator worked with the 911 staff to make improvements on their training. That is for call takers on domestic violence calls. We presented to their staff on a few occasions on the Blueprint policy. We also did a shorter follow-up review six months later to see if things had improved. We were pleased to find the quality was definitely getting better, the quality of the calls. At that point the coordinator summarized the improvements into a report for our working group. We were able to show how much work that 911 who came to the table had done. They were able to be recognized for that work by our broader working group.

>> I am curious if talking to victims plays a role in monitoring at all. It may not be something you did with 911, but do you continue to check in with victims even after a Blueprint officially launches?

>> Absolutely. That is a huge part of our Blueprint work. We always make sure especially for monitoring activities we have representatives from survivor groups at the table. Our biggest partner is definitely the New Orleans family Justice Center and they provide a range of services for survivors of domestic violence. We make sure the survivor voice is present. And not in relation to 911, but in other work we do focus groups regularly. That's what actual survivors of domestic violence are really hearing what's going on in the day to day.

>> That's awesome. Thank you, Nelle. We will come back and ask you a couple more questions in a moment as well. Jason, thank you for joining us and being patient. Last but definitely not least. So much has happened in Blue Earth County. One of the things that is distinctive about your work is your own initiative to take on Blueprint outside of the office in violence against women parameters which New Orleans and Richmond County have done Blueprint work with funding. You all received subgrant funding to start this work. You as well came on as coordinator after the Blueprint had a ready initiated. I was hoping you could talk a little bit about the path to Blueprint for the County and what it was like for you coming on board.

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>> Thank you. Thanks for having me today. There are a couple things I think are really important to start off with. One thing is what got us to the point of starting with the Blueprint was actually something that happened in 2010 here in Blue Earth County. We had 24% of the domestic violence homicides that happen across the state happened in our county. However our County makes up less than 1% of the population. If you let that sink in for a little bit, it has a lot of implications in how we are doing as system practitioners. That's part of what brought everyone together in recognition that we need to do something. We went for the STOP grant which was awarded. It was a two-year grant that funded a part-time coordinator position to help all the agencies develop an actual Blueprint. The process happened in 2011, 2012 it was rolled out. They began working on it. Unfortunately as the grant came to an end, then the coordinator position came to an end and it got shifted onto our organization to the executive director at the time. There are lots of changes and turnover not only in our organization in the coordinator but also some of the other assistant to partners had turnover. That brought us into some challenges. I came on in June 2015 to help revitalize the Blueprint . One of the first things we did is we had Praxis International come down and do a training with everybody in October 2015. We spent the rest of 2015 and 2016 trying to revitalize our Blueprint and bring it back to speed. We took a lot of time to have individual meetings with all the agencies to say what do you want this to look like? How does it best serve you? This is a collaborative thing and want to make sure your voice and concerns are represented. That was our jumping off point for revitalizing things for us.

>> When you came on board, how did you feel buy-in or commitment and was there anything you had to do to revive or bring others back to the table?

>> There are a couple of things. I mentioned a little bit that the first thing was setting up some face-to-face meetings with folks. The Blueprint committee was continuing to meet every other month. But not getting a lot done. I set up one-on-one meetings with everybody and came to the table to say what is it you need to see from us to help get this thing going again? From my perspective, the biggest thing for us was we came to the table and instead of seeing

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what can you do differently or why aren't you being as active as we think you should be, we came to the table and said do you still want to be a part of this and do you think it's valuable? If so, what does it need to look like for you so you get out of it what you need to do your job better? Just trying to be receptive and responsive to what different agencies needed and trying to bring that all together and present it back to the whole group. We said here is what everyone said and what we need to do to get everyone on board.

>> One of the unique things that Blue Earth County has done well with is utilizing the existing lethality assessment protocol you were using prior to Blueprint and finding a way to maintain the use of that assessment while integrating and incorporating the uses of the Blueprint risk questions. I think a lot of communities who may not be doing Blueprint at this time may have some type of actuarial risk assessment like the Maryland LAP that allow you to calculate a risk score. Blueprint approach to risk assessment is slightly different. It certainly works with actuarial tools but it's its own method of officers asking three risk questions and follow-up risk questions to have a conversation with victims to learn about the history of violence and the severity and frequency. Tell us a little bit if you can about what that was like. What was it like to take on the Blueprint approach to risk assessment in the community are ready using the LAP . And maybe what the discussion was around that or how you all found a way to use them together.

>> There are a couple of things. The first thing is that participants in our Blueprint understood the importance of having the history of violence , the context and severity and understanding how much of a difference that should play as the case proceeds through the criminal justice system. When we took on the Blueprint questions and we expanded them quite a bit, we knew the information that the questions got to was critical information to be considering as the case moved through the process so we can one, maintain victim safety in two hold offenders accountable. So what we ended doing was combining the lethality assessment and Maryland model version with a more robust and extended version based off of the Blueprint . Our current assessment has two dimensions where on one hand it has some similarities with

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actuarial models in that there are a couple sets of questions that if a certain number are yes or come back in a certain way that it triggers an immediate call to an advocate. It also has additional Russians that provide the context to the kind of violence that is happening. I think what it took to get everybody to buy into that was to talk about why is that important and what is the outcome if we gather that information? That was the selling point. Prosecutors want to have a good case to prosecute. If they don't have context and additional information it can be harder to do that. Law enforcement when they investigated case want to see it prosecuted and see convictions come out of it. They recognize that they gathered the information there's a better chance of that happening. It goes down the line with each different agency involved. That was the critical piece is saying if we combine these things, these are the outcomes we will see. These are outcomes everyone says they want from this process. Let's give it a go and that's what we did.

>> Were you able to get a sense of how this impacted the law enforcement response? Do you know if officers were feeling this was helpful in getting them more information? Did it increase the amount of time they had to spend on DV cases? What was the impact from what you could see on the law enforcement response?

>> There are a couple of different things. Before I jump into that I want to mention when I came onto this project and we did the revitalization in late 2015 and throughout 2016, one thing we started to do and 2016 was interagency reviews. Really going in and looking at how things are going. When we did that, we did an interagency review with law enforcement and tried to pull statistically significant number of police reports over what transpired during the last year. We reviewed a total of 40 different police incidents reports as a group. We dug into those. One thing we saw was when the lethality assessment or in our case we call it a questionnaire, when that was completed, the quality of the police report written was significantly different. Part of that is at that point in time we were having a struggle with having 100% of officers completing it. It's always a struggle. It was very apparent to everyone in the room and some of those folks were law enforcement that if this was done, the quality of

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the report was better. They are trained to know when the quality of report is better it's more likely the case will proceed for charges and there will be a conviction. Those things are in play. That's something we have seen and continued to see now that folks are particularly aware of that impact. When they complete that risk assessment, that not only do they put that on the assessment but that information transfers into the narrative of the incident reports they are writing. And that provides greater context.

>> I apologize, Jason, but at the end I could not hear you very well. If you could restate that last comment you were making a little louder more into the phone?

>> One of the things they saw was when the risk assessment was filled out and the information was also translating into the narratives of the actual incident reports, that was influencing and impacting the ability of cases to be prosecuted and convicted. For us that was a huge selling point. Law enforcement folks here and other places as well are happy to do things as long as there is a purpose. They don't just want more paperwork to do. They have plenty already. Our ability to show the connection between if you fill this out, this is the impact on getting cases convicted, then they become very motivated to do that.

>> That makes a ton of sense. Were you able to see that follow-through impact with the prosecution, kind of the next stage in a system response?

>> Yes, we are. That is where we are at right now is monitoring that process and implementation over this next year. We are seeing some impact and changes that we are excited about.

>> I have one more question for you Jason before I turn my attention to Jud and Jennifer. I want to remind our listeners to please type any questions you may have for our presenters or myself into the Q&A box. We want you to be able to ask any of the speakers questions that you have. You have time to fit in answers to the questions and we would like those to be as interactive as possible. Don't hesitate to type any questions and we will make sure to answer them. By last question for you on this, Jason, was since you are coming from an advocacy

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organization, CADA, and that keeps you close to survivors, I was wondering if you have gotten any feedback from victims or survivors in the community in terms of any difference they have seen in their interactions with law enforcement?

>> We certainly got a little bit and I think sometimes it's hard to get feedback about that. What we have seen as a lot of the advocates are attending court hearings or various things with victim survivors is they are seeing information translated in how the judge sitting at the bench is talking about the case or how the prosecution talks about the case. Sometimes even probation when they make PSI recommendations or bales stay recommendations. They are seeing when the risk assessment is filled out and the paperwork trail moves through the system, that everyone is able to pick up on that and refer back to it to help keep at the forefront of the conversation, the history and context and severity of violence. Without that document that clearly leaves that out, it gets lost in translation unless you have a victim survivor making a solid impact statement or in touch with and communicating with prosecution which we know isn't often the case. So keeping that document in the mix helps keep their voice and experience present even if they are not wanting to speak up or are able to share it themselves.

>> That I think is very helpful to hear. I hope that will resonate with others listening. What you described is a huge goal and intention of the Blueprint is allowing practitioners to document information related to risk and danger in a way that passes the information to the next person in the response and set the next person up with that kind of detailed information where they don't have to repeat efforts to re-create that information or only be able to rely on a community-based advocate like you were just saying. And also keep that attention to the context and severity visible and at the forefront at all times. I appreciate you sharing that. I'm glad it's working that way. Before I move us into looking at maintaining buy-in for Blueprint over time, we have a question and I believe it's a question for you, Jason, related to what you were just talking about. Is there a printed list of questions that law enforcement officers use or

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should use to get more detail about the incident to ensure a better understanding of who did what?

>> We have an actual list. We have a questionnaire that law enforcement goes through and fills out. It's a combination of information directly out of the Blueprint that asks those three Blueprint questions. It also has information that is similar or the same as what's in the Maryland model LAP program. It's a combination of those things. That's something I would be happy to pass along to Praxis if they want to make that information available and post this on their website. I would be happy to share that.

>> That would be great. Thank you, Jason. Liz, if you can transition us to our next slides, slide 17, I will turn attention back to Jennifer and Jud to talk about what comes next. You have been working for the past couple of years to put your Blueprint for Safety together. Other resources on the Praxis website to provide anyone listening in with more details about the five particular phases of full Blueprint implementation will shed light on what Jennifer and Jud had just been going through in their community. Now that you have launched a Madison County Blueprint for Safety which is your book of the Blueprint policies and protocols adapted to your community, what comes next? What will be needed for you all in terms of keeping folks committed to staying at the table and keep them committed for the long haul to be part of the implementation and ongoing monitoring of the Blueprint? And Jada, I will start with you.

>> Great question. No doubt when you put in a program like this with as many agencies it touches in the amount of work involved, you get meeting fatigue and fatigue of the process. After we had a launch we take a breath and I just the fact we have launched this and then we reconvene and start our in-depth training to make sure we hold each other accountable for different things we need to implement. That process has been a nice transition period. I know for our office, Jennifer talks often about this is a perfect Blueprint and how do we do it before and what do we need to do differently or talk to people about relating to the Blueprint for this

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type of case? I think it helps for more productive discussions as we move into deeper training stages in different things we need to do to fully implement the program.

>> That's great. Jennifer, anything you would add and particularly being an advocate, particularly being a person is responsible for every day for grounding the response in experience of survivors, what do you see from your perspective? It's a bit of a different perspective than the other practitioners in the system with your linkage directly to victims. What do you see practitioners needing such as yourself to stay at the table and do this work?

>> Like Jud said, we all needed a break from it. I think now we have had a little distance from all of the push to get it launched. I think just staying in touch, for me that's important. I know I deal with victims differently so I notice how law enforcement is doing it differently. We start to see the changes that you hope to make and actually see those in real life. That is very encouraging. It's also important to keep the core team together so you don't forget about it. Day to day life takes over and it would be easy to just get into a routine of not being conscious of the changes you are trying to make. It doesn't happen overnight. It will always be a work in progress.

>> It being a work in progress and even what you are saying about needing a little bit of a break. What has been helpful to both of you in this moment of taking a pause after the launch? One might hear that and think if we take a pause, what if no one comes back to the table? What are some ways you are staying in touch, like you said Jennifer it's holding your team strong while you are transitioning into implementation?

>> We all still have a fair amount of contact with each other. That helps. We are still talking about it. We are all still encountering the same victims in dealing with the same things. Now we just are more aware of a shared goal. That's the most important thing is to maintain communication. The core group, because you have leaders of the agency. That's critically important to keep those people on board.

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>> I would add getting back to the importance of being a Blueprint coordinator is a result from how Jennifer pushes and how she handles things, the relationships don't deteriorate with a pause. You have to be sure whoever you have bringing everyone together is creating great relationships. You would have a real worry if that didn't exist. If people aren't at the table and you take a pause you lose everyone at the table. In our situation it created deepening of relationships that needed to be protected. In our experience it created relationships and friendships to continue to build the process.

>> I want to ask you both to offer your final thoughts to listeners in terms of what you feel from your experience of the Blueprint for Safety, what is one of the main things you think any community trying to do this work could get out of doing Blueprint, even if it's not the whole thing that is so intense you need a break after lunch. What is something you have gotten from the process you think any community could benefit from?

>> For me it's inter-connectivity. That hits you so many ways. Any time you've got these different agencies working on the same problem but in different ways, unless you are at the table together on a regular basis you lose touch and opportunities to benefit the community. I think the process is every bit important as the product. We are in the beginning stages so the question on the mind is to get results from the process. It creates real benefits and just in the inner connectivity and communication existing now that was strained or did not exist before.

>> Jennifer?

>> I think I would add and probably saying the same thing Jud said in a different way, but we are stronger and more successful together if we all work toward the same goal. I can advocate all day long. It's another part of the process that affects the outcome. Just working together and realizing we are all in it together.

>> Absolutely. I apologize, I was checking our Q&A to see if there were questions for you. If questions come up for me and I will come back to you. Nelle, one of the interesting perspectives you offered today is certainly what does that monitoring our ongoing Blueprint

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work looked like a few years out from where Richmond is now? And also unique in New Orleans is a few times when the New Orleans Blueprint had to pause for lack of a coordinator. Some of that has to do with the project in New Orleans being based with the city and city government. How those processes work. And Blueprint in New Orleans has persisted despite those periods of pause. The partners have overall stayed committed to wanting to do this work. Describe this for us and tell us about what you think has given New Orleans the ability to persist and keep going even when there may not have been leadership?

>> Being within the city government gives us pluses and minuses. Definitely one of the negatives is the fact we had to be on hold a couple of times. Mostly due to how long the hiring process can be for a city agency. That's just the reality of the way things work. I think it's a positive to have a Blueprint situated in city government. Whatever success we have had, a lot of it is because we had the endorsement explicit or implicit from our mayor's office. That opens so many doors for us. Part of the continuing strength for us despite having to go on pause or hold comes from the fact it has worked for our participating agencies. As I mentioned earlier, our Police Department has seen the Blueprint as helpful in meeting the requirements of our federal consent decree. Having that outside pressure has helped their buy-in and helped the Blueprint as a whole. It is also improved agency response in reference to 911 and how our monitoring activities help bolster them and their response to domestic violence. Also in other aspects, our police reports have improved with the addition of the Blueprint risk questions. Through the Blueprint work we have written new protocols for probation and law enforcement to notify each other one a probationer is arrested. And all of those wins have encouraged partners to Hagan there and stay at the table or come back to the table when we encounter those difficulties. They want to see more growth and see that the system is responding and enhanced. They put in the work and want to see it keep going. I think we really rely on our partner organizations. Through that we have strengthened our advocacy connections so groups like the New Orleans family Justice Center, we rely on them to guide our work. They bring us survivor experiences. We always make sure the victims voice is central to the work we do. They are invested and help the work to keep going because they are at the

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table with us. Just by being there they apply pressure to our systems when our practices veer off from the Blueprint . At the working group meetings, I think our advocacy organizations value being able to bring up trends they see survivors mention over and over and experience and highlight them to the broader group. We have had to go on pause or hold several times and still on pause in a way, but the work has worked so we are still able to keep pushing and moving forward.

>> Jason, we will hear from you in a moment. I think similarly you are working on a project that has been going on for several years and you had to work with pauses and how to move forward. Nelle, as a final thought from you, any final words you want to share with listeners about what they can gain from the Blueprint?

>> The Blueprint is great. It's unique in our community and something that has benefited the different agencies. The ones I think have participated the most and gotten the most out of it. I think it can be a big idea. One of the earlier slides mentioned it such a big idea. If you keep pushing and working and holding people accountable, you can have great results. The more results you get, the more buy-in you will have. It's been beneficial for New Orleans and excited we will keep it going.

>> That's awesome. Thank you, Nelle. Jason, some of your tactics and strategies for how you have been moving this forward are on the slide in front of us. If you can advance to slide 19, tell us about how your team utilized a Blueprint tools. Certainly using Cingular Blueprint tools is one way any community can take on some of the Blueprint if not all.

>> There are a couple of things. I think we need to advance one more slide. First and foremost I want to echo something I heard Jud say because I appreciate it. The process is more important than the product. If you can get people in the room, all the different agencies represented and have conversations about how we are doing or what could we do better or differently, that process and what comes out of that is more important in my opinion than coming up with the formal hard copy of the Blueprint . I think the Blueprint has the goals,

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structure and way of thinking about things you can use. You can use that to inform how you do things. You don't have to come up with the full Blueprint. It's very intensive. It's also very productive. But it's a lot of work. That is something that is helpful to keep in mind. Does that make sense?

>> Absolutely. We got a question in that I think makes the most sense for you to answer, Jason, because we are being asked if you're just beginning to implement the LAP program, what type of presentation would you present to law enforcement agencies in your community to have them buy into the program and how would they benefit from being involved? I tried to seek clarification. If we are not quite answering your question right, please write us back to clarify. I think what she may be asking is if the community is just starting off with the LAP, how should you present Blueprint to them and what do you need to convey about Blueprint to make sense that they should start a Blueprint process when they have LAP?

>> There are a couple of things. One thing I want to do is give credit to someone who did a fabulous job in Minnesota who is Sergeant Randy McAllister out of the cottage Grove Police Department. He has developed a good way of training law enforcement officers, particularly around LAP and also coordinating community response. Not necessarily Blueprint specific but we've had them talk about Blueprint because he's good as a law enforcement officer speaking to other law enforcement folks about it. I want to share briefly how he does that. It might be relevant to how you think about doing it as well to other communities. One thing he does well is highlight the relationship between police officer homicide and domestic violence. He does that right away. One of the things it does is bring it home. We know law enforcement folks show up and want to do a good job but want to go home at the end of the day. That is while still having an impact in their community. One thing he brings up right away and this is Minnesota data so you have to look at your own state, but he brings up in the last 10 years in the state of Minnesota, 78% of suspects in law enforcement officers deaths have a documented history of domestic violence. So almost 80% of people who are committing homicides of law enforcement officers have a history of domestic violence. That's part of what

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he lays out. He goes into stories and talks about each of the different officers to land that impact with law enforcement folks. This is a serious issue and they have ways we can work with it and deal with it that are more effective than others. It's not just about working harder but working smarter. He uses that as a premise. That sort of a format and really connecting with people is intense but also drives the point home. It makes the case that it's important to implement things like lethality assessment protocol and to have an interagency response that's highly coordinated like the Blueprint for Safety. It has a very real impact in our day-to-day lives. That something any of us can relate to when it's brought to us in that way. That's what I think is important to bring out.

>> Thank you, Jason. I agree. That may be a message that needs to come from law enforcement to resonate. Such as what you just described. I think that's important. Also what's important to know and could be said to new communities thinking about Blueprint is LAP is a specific assessment tool that produces a score on risk very specific to law enforcement on the scene during the initial response to an incident. It is a score that moves through the system in terms of being available after police and court and probation which is similar to some of what you describe, Jason, how the risk questions are working. One thing I note is that Blueprint on the other hand is everything else that Jud and Jennifer and Nelle and Jason also described. To say we are doing LAP but why Blueprint would leave out all of the other aspects of Blueprint beyond its risk assessment approach. Some of the things like the six foundational principles of the Blueprint and some of the other aspects that the presenters were sharing today might be some of the other gains and benefits of doing Blueprint that one could share with their partners that may Aarti be doing the LAP or another type of risk assessment. The LAP would work in tandem with the risk questions the way that Jason has talked about and then add to all the rest of the blueprints. It would strengthen the law enforcement response, but within a bigger context of the gains that the speakers have talked about today. We have one other question at this time from Elizabeth Osborne who is asking what are the benefits of this project in addition to a regular CCR? To that I would say Blueprint is a CCR and we look at it as enhanced CCR which is enhanced because it's fully articulated. It's

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comprehensive and fully articulated. Since the 1980s when CCR work started in this country, over that period of time, the work has become different things in different communities. Some CCR's may meet regularly and have discussions but maybe they don't have a unified and fully integrated set of policies and protocols for every agency in the system. So everyone is on the same page in writing and in policy as they are in intention. I think Jennifer Brown, one thing you said that's happening in Richmond is it still the same people doing the work and still seeing each other in the same spaces in working with the same victims and cases, but now we have this new shared way of thinking about it together. We are also doing individual things but working towards this very clear centralized goal. One thing I will say Elizabeth in regards to your question is and I say regular with the air quotes just taking it from your question because I don't think there are regular CCR's. I think everyone is unique and different. For any CCR currently doing work on domestic violence around the country if you want to take your CCR to the next level, if you want to build and structure around it, or as we suggest on today's webinar, use the Blueprint to start building some structure . All of our speakers talked about how there are aspects you can take on and it's a lot of work and a big undertaking. Certainly areas such as the risk assessment approach and risk questions assess practice with monitoring activity. Starting to come to the table to talk about things according to the Blueprint approach are different steps to take current work to the new level on next level. With Blueprint, we suggest already existing CCR's take on Blueprint. Having a CCR is the prerequisite to doing Blueprint. Any CCR can do it. That is one of our biggest hopes to can -- to convey from today's webinar is any CCR can do this work. The Blueprint is designed to be a well-written out fully articulated way to do CCR work that lays it all out so a community has a guidebook to follow which will save a lot of time configuring those things out and also streamline the process which leads to the awesome results that our speakers have shared with you today. Just as a follow-up Jason to let you know that we received a thank you for you and we will work to keep Blueprint to assist us because they have an excellent approach and guide. While we are wrapping up with our final announcements to you, I will encourage anyone who may have any questions to go ahead and type them in before we wrap up for the day. Liz, if you can move us

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to slide 21, because we have responded to our questions so far. This is some save the date information for you all. Registration information is available now for the Institute. Everybody who attended this webinar will receive publicity in the next week with registration link for the Blueprint for Safety Institute . Please save the date and register when you receive the next communication. July 17-19 of this year in Saint Paul, Minnesota we will go in depth and detail to some of what was discussed on today's webinar and give folks a hand on experience with understanding how the Blueprint works, what is entailed in the Blueprint, what it can do for your CCR, and it's a hand on Institute and very interactive. You get to meet with Saint Paul Blueprint practitioners as well. It will help paint a very solid picture for folks considering Blueprint work.

>> If you can move to the last slide it has my contact information and contact information for the Blueprint Program Manager, my colleague Denise Eng. Thank you for viewing the webinar today and thank you so much to the guest presenters for your time and informative insights you shared from your experiences with the Blueprint. The PowerPoint for today's presentation will be available to you as soon as you close out of the webinar platform. The PowerPoint will become available for download.

>> This is Liz. I will interject and say people can download the PowerPoint right now from the materials box. It's on your screen. You can also get the PowerPoint available to you with the recording of this that will be posted on the Blueprint recording webpage . And I was going to say when people close out of the webinar you will be routed to a Survey Monkey evaluation of today's presentation. We would be grateful for your feedback. It matters to us. Sorry to interrupt. Back to you.

>> I'm glad you did. I thought normally the PowerPoint is in the materials box so glad you corrected me. To fill out the evaluation. They are brief but we incorporate all of your feedback into making the webinars better in the future. We will make sure to include the assessment that Jason talked about and said he would make available. We will include that with a follow-up email that will go out with a link to the webinar. And do not hesitate to contact myself or

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Denise if you have any questions about today's presentation, would like to put you directly in touch with our presenters, or have questions about Blueprint. Thank you all so much and have a great afternoon.

>> Goodbye everyone. Thank you.

>> [Event concluded]