

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

Leveraging Relationships: The Role of the Advocate in Tracking System Response, Part I

Rose Thelen and Amalfi Parker Elder

August 21, 2018

>> Hello. We are at the top of the hour and ready to get started. Thank you and good afternoon everyone and welcome to this webinar on leveraging relationships, the role of the advocates in tracking system response presented by Praxis International in partnership with the office on violence against women. My name is Amalfi Parker Elder, and I am a senior program and training specialist at praxis. I will introduce today's presenter in a moment. First, I am joined today by my colleague , Kue, who will help us with the technical aspects of the webinar. Will you tell us about how this webinar works?

>> Thank you for the introduction. I will cover the technological portion for the webinar today. Below your screen you will see a closed captioning pod and please note this is a real-time captioning so excuse any mistakes that appear. To the right of the PowerPoint we do have our QA pod where you can type in your questions or comments and this pod is a private so feel free to leave anything you want there and we will respond to you. On the top right-hand corner, there is an icon that you can click on each box to adjust the display preferences. Asides from that, the audio will be from computer speakers. If you're having any issues with your audio you can also dial in using 1-800, 820736 and you can use the code star symbol 533-7080 and the pound symbol. We also have web links and a copy of the PowerPoint listed below. If you have any connection issues, you can click on the top right of your screen, and you can select troubleshooting, and that will test your connection and download any add-ons for

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

Adobe Connect. If you have any audio issues, let me know in the QA box or that Patricia know and we will contact you. I will hand it back to you, Amalfi.

>> Are you there?

>> Can you hear me now? Today's webinar includes Bree Adams Bill, The Blueprint for Safety coordinator but unfortunately a family emergency came up for her and she won't be able to be with us today. We do apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause you all because we really appreciate your interest and your joining us. We look forward to hosting a part 2 of our conversation with Bree next month. Please keep an eye out for publicity and registration information on leveraging relationships, the role of the advocate in tracking system response part two, a blueprint perspective with Bree Adams Bill next month. Today, however, we are very fortunate to have Rose Thelen present with us. Rose is a technical assistance partner for Praxis International providing training and technical assistance to rural grantees and Advocacy Learning Center participants on CCR's, child protection reform, and other institutional advocacy efforts. Recently she coordinated a child protection assessment project utilizing the newest assessment tool from praxis and with praxis she also offers make a call a resource for advocates in the CCR. She cofounded the gender violence Institute in 1993 and in that capacity she coordinated a 10 County project to develop protocols among advocacy programs, law enforcement, and county attorneys offices and a multijurisdictional tribal County CCR with the Minnesota Chippewa tribe. She also participated in the praxis safety and accountability audit which resulted in The Blueprint for Safety and she will talk a little bit about that today. Prior to 1995, she was a shelter advocate founded and coordinated the CCR and served as legislative coordinator for the Minnesota coalition for battered women and she also trains domestically and internationally on CCR methodology, law enforcement investigation, individual and systems advocacy, batterers and battered women's groups and the overlap of child welfare and domestic violence and organizational development for social justice. Rose served as a county commissioner and is now a Township supervisor. I know that is a very long bio for a

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

webinar, but I really wanted to highlight how fortunate we are to have somebody with such wonderful experience. Thank you, Rose, for joining us today. I do have a few questions for you so the audience can get to know you a little bit better. Can you tell us what drives you to keep doing this system reform work that we know is so challenging?

>> Good question, Amalfi, and thank you for that introduction . And you failed to say that Rose is 100 years old. [Laughter]. Why am I still doing this? Well copy or stubbornness perhaps or the fact that there are no jobs currently available in the rocket science field. But, really, I have always been interested in changing the world, full disclosure, and reforming institutions that make the world go around is really a big piece of that, particularly as we look at how violence occurs with impunity against certain people in our world. You change the world by changing the forms. I think that is a really good way of thinking of the work that you do in a CCR, is what makes people do what they do and how can we change those forms and policies and protocols and -- procedures etc. so they do different things. A little historical piece. When I started as an advocate, long ago, my job was not only to help individual women, but also to link with them to end violence for all women. It was seen as a part of the goal of the broader women's movement for achieving equal rights for women. So fast-forward a mere 40 years and there has been considerable drift in that method and how advocacy jobs are now constructed. I did a training recently about the roots of the battered women movement for new advocacy program directors and how to organize your program to do social change. Not one of the new directors that was in the room, and there were about 20 of them, knew that we had originally been organized to end the violence. Our mission statements in our job descriptions and the activities that we engaged in were not just to provide the services but also to end the violence. To me, that was really wild, and actually, of course, it leads one expect to believe the level of tolerance of the ongoing violence has crept in. We need to change not only the external systems that are problematic, but we also need to change ourselves so that we become lean mean social change machines, let's say. So that is why I am still doing that. It is an aspect of the

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

work I am very interested in because if we are not organized to end it, who will do it? So thank you for having me on today, Amalfi.

>> Absolutely. I know we tried to check on this earlier, but if you people in the audience are having a little bit of a hard time hearing you. If you could try to speak up a little bit more for us.

>> I think I will take off my headset.

>> That may help. While you are doing that, I will post the next question for you, which is what early reformer in the violence against women movement do you look up to the most and why?

>> If this is better, let me know if it is still problematic. That is an easy question. My biggest influence and my hero of all times is Ellen Pence. She was a true blue grassroots advocate and activist and visionary and reformer and she worked tirelessly to address all the isms. She saw the intersectionality before all forms of oppression and she was vigilant about not making the problem about the individual women but rather to take a look at what is the cultural aspects going on and she was really bold and courageous. She was really a brilliant strategist and to everyone's delight a lot of outrageous fun. She was responsible for starting the Duluth model which was the first CCR in the country. She then started praxis and then also the blueprint project among many other things. If you get a chance, Google her name and read anything that she has ever written. She was prolific. She brought Gandhi in and Buddhist principles as well as critical thinking and anti-oppression models to our work in Minnesota. This was picked up around the country and then internationally. A few years ago, the Duluth model was recognized and receive the gold award from the United Nations because it was viewed as the most effective approach in the world for ending violence against women. Ellen died about six years ago, and I wish every day that she was still alive, but she left a significant mark in the world.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

>> Thank you, Rose. I just started doing the work with praxis right after she had passed and it is like hearing about a legend sometimes. But I am glad that we are still trying to do the work to carry on her legacy. So that is what we will be talking about today and just as a brief overview of today's conversation, this webinar is coming as a follow-up to last year when we hosted a webinar with Bree Adams Bill titled a seat at the table navigating relationships while fishing for systems change. That webinar is available on our website. We will provide you with a link and we will have the link to it with some follow-up resources that we have and I encourage and invite everybody who is on today's webinar to check that webinar out into take a look at that recording from last year because in that webinar we talked a lot about the background on what is the systems advocacy and what is legal advocacy and what do we mean by that in the context of the blueprint and really defining that more defining the linkages and differences between direct services and systems advocacy and the importance and role of advocacy in the blueprint and the four Golden rules of systems advocacy, and when it got to the point of just touching on the aspect of relationships with practitioners in the system, people really responded to that saying that we want to hear more about this and we want to hear more concrete examples about how people are really achieving their goals when advocates don't either seem welcome to the table or they don't have a table to sit at. So we crafted this webinar to let this be a space for you all who are tuned in to listen to hear from Rose's wealth of experience and have time to talk with her. We really encourage you to enter your questions or thoughts, things that are happening at home in your community into the chat as we go. We will happily take time throughout today's webinar to pause and make sure we are responding to you because we would like you to get as much out of this time with Rose as possible today. So that is what we will talk to Rose about and what are these times and her experience where she had experience either a stonewalling or a shut out or what you do when despite partnerships that are already created with the system and agreements have already been made to work together but maybe practitioners are instituting policy changes our reform without advocates there at the point of change or how to approach situations where you may

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

be pressured to accept practices that you believe are harmful to victims because opposing those practices might jeopardize the funding or those relationships you worked hard to develop. What is the difference between activism and system reform work? As advocates, is there a place for us to do both or do we decide which strategy is most appropriate at a certain time and finally, like the fine line between coordination. As we are talking, I encourage everybody to type in questions for both myself and Rose. I did not really give my own introduction that I formally coordinated the The Blueprint for Safety in New Orleans. So particularly in the absence of Bree today I would be happy to answer some questions as well. So before we do jump into the details and the strategies that you have acquired over time in your work, can you talk to us a little bit about the origins of the movement. There was a time, before there were even relationships with the system.

>> Yes. We really started out knowing that we had to get some relationships going and that we needed something from the system because we wanted to put shelters and advocacy programs into the community. Once we put these in place we know that wasn't the be all or end all. That was not going to end it again. That was merely going to make it a little bit easier for people to recover that type of thing. It was a very important component with women needing a place to go who were beaten. Anyway, click -- quickly saw there were laws needed. So across the country we organized that our state -- at our state legislatures. We walked around at the capital with our forms on how does a bill become along and test -- law and testified at various hearings. Lo and behold, we were able to pass a strong law that enabled law enforcement to make an arrest without requiring the victim to say she wanted it to occur. Of course, that became the dance sensation that swept the nation. However, to our great surprise, we discovered that even though that law existed, it was not being utilized. Obviously, something needed to be done within the various agencies so they could be organized in a way that would, in fact, enable the various practitioners, everybody in that agency to do their work in a way that was about implementing that law. That law was about holding offenders accountable primarily and providing safety for victims. Anyway, we needed to do something. I

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

know where I worked even though there was a town of 60,000 there were only two cases that came to court and we figured out that there was about 25% of the times when the cops were called was there an arrest. Two cases came to court and both were dismissed. It was an outrage and it was happening all over Minnesota and also around the country. So I was part of a cadre you would say of early reformers but Ellen was really the key organizer in this -- on the strategist and she organized the Duluth project and it was a domestic abuse intervention project with the judge which came to be known as the Duluth model. It was one of the first in the country. After hearing about it and Mike I say, being very frustrated with what was going on, I worked to replicate the effort in St. Cloud and we became the second CCR in the state. St. Paul intervention project followed and then there were about 10 more and we went to the state legislature and said, look, we want some funding to put in Duluth type models all over the state and we worked with the gender fairness task force of the Supreme Court to make that happen. So -- of course, some of the strategies for getting change, you will hear as we talk about this is that we work on all kinds of levels. Anyway, when we had a number of programs, that was within a few couple years. We would get together on a regular basis with each other, like quarterly. In between times we would be on the phone and say what can we do about this particular problem or what about the fact that all these cases are being dismissed. What about the fact that protection orders are not been upheld? Then we would get together and try to figure out, okay, what needs to change in order for this to have a different outcome. That was kind of a fun thing to do because it was like really, we will take on the criminal justice system. We had lawyers with us and we had community organizers and we had activists. We had battered women themselves. We kind of were building the ship as we went. I think it is really important to note here that the whole thing was coordinated and the engine for the changes were the independent Dutch independent advocacy programs because we know the true experts were the victims themselves who understood and were impacted by the response of the system. Our capacity to link with them and to walk alongside of them and to ask them how that was for them was critical. The fact that we were confidential, that they did not have to

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

worry that anything they said would show up in an open court was really important. So we always conceptualize the coordinated community response is something that was organized by the independent community-based advocacy program. That is still the gold standard for what we did. So once we figured out what might work, of course the problem became how do we get them to think this is a great idea in the system. I will get into some of those strategies later because I think regardless of whether you got what you think is an interagency team what you call coordinated community stuff or even if you have a coordinated community response that is a team and there is a big table but you are not at, these strategies will help you think about how to get in there and how to change the world again. So that is a quick run through, Amalfi. Back to you.

>> I am sure you will share that thought in the next piece here. Rose, you were mentioning how advocates boldly took up that challenge to change how the system responded to domestic violence. As I said before, in 1982, began organizing in St. Cloud in the St. Cloud intervention project was the second CCR in the state of Minnesota combining direct service and legal advocacy to battered -- battered women and system tracking and monitoring and coordination of system efforts and an intervention program. Kind of out of this effort and out of the efforts of other CCR's we were developing around the state and around the country, the concept of the CCR came to be. I kind of keep coming back to the table, a metaphor, because of our previous webinar and some folks listening in maybe coming to hear the second part of that previous conversation but the dilute model didn't specifically really create that proverbial table but rather the model early on was characterized by the advocacy programs and coordinating various meetings and ad hoc committees to examine policies and procedures and protocols to see what needed to be strengthened where to produce better outcomes for victims and hold offenders accountable. Later, as more formal funding streams became available for CCR's, then the concept of multi agency and table collaboration models started to become more synonymous with what we consider CCR work. And so with that I via this -- the various different ways that Rose described and I was describing that CCR was developing

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

about 15 years ago or so Ellen started feeling as though this work, the CCR work that was initiated -- initially envisioned is what Rose described started to be done started to be characterized by a drift away a regular system reform work and maybe monthly meetings that had no specific plan of action or maybe policies and trainings were developed for one or two agencies but not all and some parts were functioning well but overall coordination was [Indiscernible] and advocates are becoming less and less involved in more multidisciplinary teams and task force only involving practitioners started arising a lot more. So in a way, the table continued to exist. As Rose talked about, it developed out of certain funding streams but advocates started being left out of that process and for a lot of these reasons, Ellen started to believe that the CCR model, while helpful in reducing violence, was not fully realizing its full potential to leverage the criminal legal system's response to address this terrible violence that affects so many women and their families. Victims were still falling through the cracks in quotations any method was needed for the system and advocates to work together and understand. How are these cracks and gaps really happening in the system's response and how do they involve survivors and how would we bring advocates back into working together with the system to close those gaps. So in 2007, Ramsey County, the CCR that developed in that community was founded back around 1993, but by 2007, even though they had been around for some time, they were also doing this kind of reflection that Ellen was doing and decided that their response could in fact be strengthened and improved and there CCR could be strengthened and improved. At that time, Rose, you became involved in the original audit team that did a safety audit initially and that safety audit was based on the institutional analysis methodology and repave the foundation for developing The Blueprint for Safety. So do you want to tell us, Rose, for a moment what was your involvement in that building of The Blueprint for Safety?

>> The Blueprint for Safety was another one of Allen's create -- Ellen and her thesis in a doctoral program in Canada. So it uses a sociological technique institutional stenography to examine how systems did what they did and how are they organized to produce a certain

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

outcome. Anyway so the safety audit was something that I had been involved with in a number of scenarios, but Ellen wanted to do something with a community that would be a mini audit. So teams of us got together with people in the system in St. Paul and looked at every aspect of the criminal justice system response from the 911 call through case disposition. So we did a number of things. We observed what was being done. We looked at policies and protocols and procedures. We did a bunch of focus groups about the impact of the system on the victims themselves and analyzed case files and 911 tapes. It was a very thorough sort of investigation about what was being done and what were the texts produced and what were the texts that in fact organized people to take particular action. So I was there. It was my job to examine the division with a few other people and to make decisions or make recommendations about how to change it. I was also involved in doing right along to identify how law enforcement was responding to the scene of the domestic. So it was really a comprehensive view and the Butte -- blueprint itself is -- I think of it like a Bible and I use it all the time in my work with working with communities in the rural project in praxis and to figure out what a good policy protocol or procedure look like in order to make a difference and how the work is done. I think that is a tip for communities as you think about this is if you are wondering how to reform your particular system, take a look at what is in The Blueprint for Safety, which is an outgrowth, or a generic version of the St. Paul blueprint and you can see some great model practices, protocols, etc. The blueprint itself emphasizes the involvement of all practitioners, and it also really centralizes again the role of the community-based advocacy program. So those are pretty critical. A few things that they also emphasize is the attention to this ongoing contact with the victim. How can we put into writing what we want law enforcement, dispatch, probation, parole, etc., to do, relative to working with the victims with the understanding that we know because we assume we might see her again and how do we make her know that we will use our power to counterbalance the power of her batterers. It is really a great resource. Once you look at it, it will make you one of the smartest people in the room. I highly recommend taking a look at it.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

>> Good. I am glad I get to be one of the smartest people. It is daunting. Anybody who reads -- it is a big project. It really lays out and provides a lot of that detail and guidance for how to build that structured idea of bringing everyone to that table. So even this picture on the slide, Bree is actually the one sitting there in yellow. But that is really real in the blueprint for safety. Bree will talk about that next month in the part 2. What I think is important for today's conversation is recognizing that systems reform work is happening in a lot of different ways around the country today. This graphic, which you may have seen in other webinars is titled the general framework of how CCR's operate. No matter whether you are in a blueprint community or not in a blueprint community, there is a formal type of CCR with formal types of meetings or the other types of advocacy that Rose described where advocates are really leading the effort and forming ad hoc committees as needed and the goals are shared and we all have that goal in the center of it to improve the experiences with the systems and also just safety and in general improve the lives of women and their children and the community that they live in. Advocacy becomes that next important piece that is central to grounding the work and the experiences of survivors and the community and those efforts and the effort of the CCR, when you book particular coordinator and the coordinator can be an advocate and sometimes it is a practitioner the important thing is that community based advocacy stay central and has a part in the leadership and whether or not they may be the formal coordinator are not. And then the circle with the green boxes is representing the actual work that happens within a coordinated effort and they are identifying the problems and gaps in the agency response or in the entire system's response and you are looking for and finding solutions for that. I am really glad that you mentioned, Rose, that even for a community that is not currently in a blueprint that just looking in the blueprint for many of the solutions that you may be looking for for an identified problem or gap is a good resource to utilize for that. Finally, once you implemented those solutions, you always have to come back and circle around to evaluate and monitor and check are there any new unintended gaps or problems that we did not anticipate or is this not quite working the way we thought. The square

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

encompasses all of this is representing the institutions we are actually working -- working to improve and change and in this context whether that is the criminal legal system or maybe another even community-based organization that you are trying to assess because it is important that advocates apply this same approach to their own agency sometimes just to assess and examine how is the work we are doing, not just the system. So we realized that a lot of people listening in today, you are all working in really different contexts in different communities and some are blueprint and some not and some Burrell and some are urban and a lot of different contact and demographics. We want to emphasize that no matter where you are coming from in the work, we do recognize that we share this common goal and we do recognize the developing relationships with system practitioners will be key no matter what. As the title of the webinar suggests, over time, advocates will learn how to leverage those relationships. The current reality is that even though overtime relationships have been developed and even in some places like blueprint or maybe there is an actual table that Bree is sitting at a meeting her partners in St. Paul with, advocates are still sometimes stonewalled or shut out from coordination efforts or find it difficult to push on a contested issue or unsure about pushing on an issue because it could undermine a relationship. Funding requirements could limit the subject and scope of the work, and sometimes there is that feeling that developing relationships with the system may make it appear to the people that you are working to advocate for that you are more invested in the system than they are, more invested in the victims. So what we want to really emphasize on this webinar is that those relationships are really key to doing this type of work, but those relationships with the system are not the primary goal. They are a means to an end which is to facilitate our effort to make changes in the institutional response to crimes of violence against women. So while we need those relationships to accomplish that goal, if our primary focus is on protecting those relationships and coddling them and hoping that we are not going to push the balance too far and push someone away, that is where we can get into that fine line between coordination and relationships for coordination versus that. And while compromises are necessary, there is

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

a balance to that. That is what we really want to talk about today and that is what we will dive into with Rose, but I'm going to just pause for a moment before we shift from background and where we are coming from and the movement and what we mean by coordinated community response really getting into her experience. I don't currently see any questions. Again I will encourage everyone to please type in things as you have questions. So Rose, I mentioned this whole idea about advocate sitting at a table and I had a picture of a blueprint meeting. But that is not the case everywhere. There are a lot of different ways that this work is being done. I just want to take a minute to see, if you have anything to say and off for for doing this work outside of that blueprint structure.

>> Yes. First of all, there is this big concept of the table and generally it is considered a large table and in order to get grant funding to get everybody in the community to say, yes, we will be a part of the CCR team and sometimes people don't even know what that means ultimately and then you get bogged in and making sure this table keeps operating and people come back and should we have food and set the agenda and all of the sort of things. Meanwhile, maybe women are getting arrested for self defensive acts of violence in the community or they are losing their children and the child protection system. Really, you can't wait necessarily until you have this team built or until your relationships are all hunky-dory before you take action to do something about that growth in justice and it might even be a violation of our civil rights. So I always encourage people to think really strongly about this table concept that really you maybe just want to start by taking a look at what are the gaps and are there other ways of organizing how we approach these gaps and who we consult with to address them and we will talk about that when we get to some of the strategies. You mentioned as well, Amalfi, the team, the big table, is not the end all or be all. It is the means to an end, which is to change the system. I have worked in communities where the table has been an impediment to that process. So think very carefully about your community. And some of the communities I have worked with they may have a team that is getting together, one of the things I say to them is relieve your team of the obligation of getting together monthly to do whatever that may be

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

what you do with that team as you say here is how we are going to work to address the gaps in the community or to work with the individual agencies that are comprised of various systems and we will work with those individual agencies to bring best practices to the table and to take a look at what has been done elsewhere that might enable us and I hate to say this over and over again but to produce better outcomes using existing resources and effectuating all of the goals that we have working in the community to end violence. So people talk about relationships as well and that sometimes relationships become sort of a prologue to taking action on a particular problem but I have always seen that building the relationship around what are we going to do about a particular issue or about putting our community on the map so that we really can start to reduce the problem of domestic violence in our community or that we can get batterers to stop or whatever it is, the relationship building occurs as you are working on this particular issue. So again, I have been working since 83 on CCR's. I really have seen again and again that sometimes -- this table idea -- get lost on this people -- on this, people are getting together to change the system. You may have had a highly functioning group like in St. Paul where they are all deciding, yes, we are going to take a look at everybody's problems together and then we are going to solve them, but often you are in a community where they don't want problems to be brought up about their work or data want to confront the judge who may be the dumbest person in the room, but in fact has the most power in that room. So there are all kinds of power things that happen. I may work with a larger team or enter agency task force organized and say let's do our work this way and what we are looking from you is support for doing it this way. We will provide you with updates about what we are doing and we will talk about our efforts in an ongoing way and you can raise money and you can help us when we have a particularly thorny issue and we will come talk to is needed, etc. So that is my piece on the table. I worked with a community in Minnesota at one point that everybody was gung [NULL] on how well they were doing and I have a CCR, which meant they had a big bunch of people that got together on a monthly basis and the chief of police was even organizing something he called 100 men where they would

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

come together for lunches every quarter I guess it was. So everybody was really excited. I said, how has this system changed. They weren't really sure how many arrests and prosecutions. They didn't really know that but they had designed a better brochure for women's bathrooms. From my way of thinking, that is probably not a successful CCR. We want the system to change because we don't want the batterer to continue to abuse with impunity. That is my introduction on that. I may be bullish on trying to move us away from that concept because there is a lot of other work that needs to be done. And I use the blueprint, not in a table format but we will go into it as we go. Right, Amalfi?

>> Yes. One of the things I thought was important and what you just said was that in St. Paul they have that buy-in and commitment and in St. Paul, everybody made that decision that we will come together and partner and find MO use -- MOU. We want to open ourselves up. I am glad you made that differentiation because even if you go to our website on blueprint we have this resource called the community readiness assessment because there are some considerations for a community or CCR to take into account to say that we really position to do that so I think it is a similar conversation because we share those same goals and we are working like you said to reform the system but it is going to be an interesting it is a different approach and perspective depending on what structure your work is taking on. Bree will talk more in the next webinar that I was mentioning before, really about what that blueprint context is like because even though there is a table and even though she sits at it and other advocates are there, still has its own set of challenges and barriers to system reform. It is not to say that even having the table makes it all hunky-dory either. In all of these contexts, there will be certain challenges and barriers that advocates are working and fighting against. So just to say it is really important that we are speaking to all of the different ways that people are doing the work. I am glad that we will focus a little bit and spend the rest of today really looking at these ways. Rose is doing that work outside of that blueprint context and debris will talk about it more specifically next month.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

>> Rose, you have a lot of different strategies that we will go through. I know you have a lot of examples to share for each of these strategies. I will say again to the audience listening in that we will be sure to keep checking the QA box so we can pause where needed if you have any questions that you want to talk about. The first strategy here that you brought to the table for us is knowing the problem, the solution, and the process. That sounds a little daunting to basically solve the world's problems, and violence against women. Tell us more about moving against anecdotes to evidence and what the forms of that evidence are.

>> I think this will be the strengths of your efforts. If it doesn't need fixing, don't fix it. And I am talking about you mean in the advocacy program but it can be anybody on the line who is interested in changing the system is what is the problem. You can talk to advocates and they will say there is -- there are no arrests in town and victims come to me and they say they would never call the cops again or they are resting a lot of women and you say okay, we need to do is conceptualize ourselves as more or less human rights workers in war zones or something. Find out what is the extent of the problem. What are you hearing from victims. Document what you are hearing. You can do that through your informal conversations with women are you can do particular surveys or you can also track the data in the criminal justice system and how many arrests and how many prosecutions and what are the court outcomes. So there are lots of methods to do that. There is a new resource that praxis has developed and I was an officer with them on this and it is called make the call. It is part of the world project that we put together and it is about how to implement advocacy initiated response. I think that is a first step for a lot of communities, to negotiate an agreement with the law enforcement community that after an arrest or intervention, they will contact you as soon as possible after the arrest. But then what you do is there are all kinds of things that are about your specialized activities as an advocacy program. A lot of times advocacy programs will be contacted after there is an arrest. What they see their role as is they do what they ordinarily do with any kind of contact with a victim of domestic violence is they tell her about resources and they see if she needs to come to the shelter, etc. This advocate initiated response also

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

brings in the whole concept of systems advocacy that you don't just provide resources. You find out how was that for you. Were you treated with respect? What went on and what was the assault that prompted the call? What if her version -- what is her version. You contact victims of arrest and non-arrest. You will find out a lot of information by contacting the non-arrest victims as well as the arrest victims. But you see yourself as accessing her expertise. Where advocates start to utilize the strategy or start to see themselves as not just deliverers of resources or services but also I am finding out from her what is her experience like in the community so I can do what I need to do to work with the community to do a better job, let's say. So within this make the call procedural manual or toolkit on the praxis website, there is also a form -- it is a tracking procedure for response complaints. Something like that. Anyway, it is a procedure -- as I think about how we can change our own systems so we are more like a lean machine, social change machine, how do we capture what we hear day-to-day about the problems that she is experiencing. Most of our advocates are organized when somebody comes to the program and they are organized when they say she was really mistreated by the cops or child protection or whatever it is and most that we are organized to say that is a terrible thing and it should not have happened and you don't deserve that. Here is a Kleenex. I don't mean to minimize that and that is so important. But the other piece is maybe it is also what we need to do is organize the advocates and volunteers to say can you tell me more about that and when did that happen. It is not always going to be the right time to get more information, but maybe you are talking to somebody at intake and they come from a community and say I will never call the cops again and maybe it is offhanded and you say that the procedure and what it would suggest is that you say to her okay, we are working to change that. Would you have some time for me to sit down and talk to you about that. Or we will be doing a focus group and would you be interested in attending that or let's set up a time where you can tell me about it. In that way we start to develop the evidence and the science behind the need for change and one advocates have that, it is the decision-maker themselves who is responsible for that problem somebody will take an interest. Generally what I have found is

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

you come in and say okay. This is experience from data tracking at the court houses and I worked with a sheriff up in northern Minnesota and they said they were doing fine and his officers were great and thank you very much and yes he is cooperative. So I went in after a quarter of collecting data and said they are hardly making any arrests of their and we have been talking to the women and in our discussions with them we are wondering if officers don't need more tools to be able to better assess when arrests should happen or what kind of data to collect or those kind of things. So all of a sudden I saw this sheriff change and he was interested in doing something. I had the data and had it on a spreadsheet. It was on paper and he knew that was not probably some data that I would keep secret if he didn't think it was a great idea to solve that problem. He is a political animal. So all of a sudden he was more interested in really seriously taking a look at what needed to change in his own system. So the solution, one of the things of the criminal justice system is if you look at the blueprint, most of the problems that exist out there in the community and the law enforcement response I should say in the criminal justice response, there is a solution that you can find in the blueprint. So you see what the problem is. Let's say women are being arrested. And you have talked to the women and you find out that most of them are battered women. So you go to the blueprint and you find out what would change this and what do officers need so that they are doing better self defense determination or predominant aggressor determination so you know, this is a potential solution and the process for changing that is only talk about the meeting with the involved decision-maker which is the last bullet on this particular sheet. One of the things about AI are is that most agencies love it and officers enjoy having somebody working with the victims and there is a lot of law enforcement involved and by and all over the country and there is also a lot of research to suggest it is a very effective method for reducing - - promoting safety and also it has an impact on the court outcomes. So it is not a hard sell. Once you start to have that contact with the victim, again, they will make you smart. You will walk with her throughout that process and maybe I should say you will that does represent her interest throughout that process and find out what is being done. Is it working for her. I think

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

about the whole idea of automatic criminal no contact order and that is being done all of the country and people think anecdotally that makes her safer but you talk to a lot of battered women and you will find that they won't call again because they wanted him to stop beating her and they did not want the state involved in whether she could ever see him again so it is a questionable practice. As a result. In many cases and in many of the blueprint communities, they are now adjusting those no contact orders to make them more attentive to is she really safer if there is no contact or will that better see that no contact as synonymous with her leaving the relationship which in fact is one of the highest risk situations for the victim. So I say once you know what the problems are, that are happening out in the community, and once you talk to various people and look at the blueprint, you can call Praxis and you can talk to a lot of people in the coalitions and say what would solve this problem and what is being done elsewhere on the process is to meet with the involved decision-maker and I will get into that in a little bit. So anything else? I am not seen this seeing any questions come up. I know there was a question about data collection.

>> Yes. We did get a question that came in from the registration process from Eileen Greene and she is a manager of victim services and human traffic in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. She wrote into is that the biggest issue is being part of the criminal justice system in a larger city that lacks the technology and infrastructure to facilitate seamless communication. Each entity -- entity is utilizing their own database creating issues with making sure consistent communication is there and in turn communication with victims about case status is and how the case is moving through the system and that is not an uncommon -- that is not uncommon. I think that is the case in a lot of places. So I wanted to make sure we gave you a chance to respond to that, Rose.

>> I think that will be one of the gaps and let's say you have your interagency team, larger group, that maybe one of the goals they have two create this tracking and monitoring system within the system itself, but also, again if you look at the make the call, there is a list at the

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

sort of things the advocacy program should be doing in one of the goals of the advocacy program would also be to track that data so even if the system has its own tracking systems, it is always good for the advocacy program to have their own. Now there was a database called domestic abuse information network, but it is a little bit outdated right now. I think, again, this is knowing where the system is at and what is happening will be important. So I would make it a goal. When I was doing my work at St. Paul when I was part of the blueprint audit, the St. Paul audit, that was one of the things we saw in the warrants division and they had three computer systems and none of them spoke to each other. And I think they are still working on that issue which Bree will speak to next time. But you know you make that a goal for what you are doing and really if you are doing the advocacy in a specialized way are you are the coordinator of the coordinated community response effort tracking and monitoring is a key feature and you want to get agreements on how you will fix those particular problems. That is more than infrastructure of how that system functions. Does that get to it, --?

>> It made me think of a couple things. This idea that the advocates can house the information and when advocates are able to do that because they are in a position to receive information or data from the legal agencies and the access is great but it is a lot of work sometimes to take in all of that data and work through it and sift through it and organize it and turn it into statistics sometimes. So as a tip that we have given to other communities and something I utilized greatly in New Orleans when I was there for the blueprint for graduate level interns. If you are in a University City or any kind of college, those students are so eager to do work for free and they are good for data processing and entry. So there is another question on do you have any suggestions on evidence, the type of evidence that you can collect for working with CPS of the child welfare system?

>> There is another tool on Praxis called an assessment tool, self-assessment tool to work with the child protection system to figure out what is going on there. I think again that really if you are working on systems change stuff, one of the first things again is to provide advocacy

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

for whoever is using that system that is creating problems. I would set up something whereby the child protection system is in contact with you and you can get involved with the women and victims who are involved with the child protection system and then you collect your own data about how it is going. There is also public data. There are a whole bunch of strategies within this assessment tool on the Praxis website how to collaborate with child protection to get their interest involved or to be involved in doing some of these things. I did a test run on this assessment tool and they weren't keeping data about domestic violence itself. In fact they weren't even asking the questions and stuff. So that may be one of the things that you set up is let's get the data. What is happening. But otherwise, again, working with that individual victim and finding out what is going on there and looking at their case files and see what is in there. All kinds of strategies exist in this manual and again I would take a look at that. You can also call Praxis and we could provide some individual things as well the take a look at that. It is a huge issue around the country. I think it is horrific that we are seeing kids being taken away just because there is domestic violence. There are a lot of reform efforts as well and the child protection system. I wanted to just pick up on this second sub bullet under know the problem etc. The whole idea of survivor involvement. In this procedure you would find the tracks and documents and the experiences of the victims and whatever system you are trying to get information about. There is a question that says what you like to be involved in our efforts to address this. This is one of the things that we lost over time as we became more psychology I professionalized or whatever it was, it was always assumed when I started that we had something called sisterhood. When women came to our program, it was assumed they would be working with us to end violence against women. Now, things have changed over time and all kinds of ways. But we have organizations that don't even allow women to volunteer if they are battered or it is been a certain amount of time so getting back we want to help us change this and a lot of women do and in Minnesota we started a coordinating community response back in the 80s, one of the things we did in the various advocacy programs was starting to take a look at what kind of opportunity are we giving the victims to join our movement and you can

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

see over time we don't have a movement now necessarily and I talk to people and they say movement, what is the number, I want to call them. We are losing opportunities. We used to have an action group -- action groups all over Minnesota that would take action when there was a problem and they were able to do a lot of things that we didn't want to necessarily be directly implicated in because of the standing in the community and I think you mentioned the whole idea of what is activism versus what is the social change or something. Take a look at your own agency, are you providing opportunities for victims so they know it is not just about them healing themselves and overcoming their trauma but part of that process may be to work with others to change the world. We have lost that so much. But to get back to that. Moving forward here. I am looking at the time and we are running low. Are we? Let me tell you another thing that is important and part of leveraging power in the community is working with groups of people including the survivors themselves who vote and understand the issues and who understand and come to meetings with you and do things to work with you to address a particular problem. But analyzing them those of the leveraging power in the community is where it is at. Let's say you are at a table and they don't want to hear from you and you have the lease status in the room. Find out about who has done this with the decision-maker. When you meet with them, if they are not terribly interested in the problem you are raising, somebody might be. Find them. My earliest experience was going into the law enforcement police department and the chief just proceeded to tell one bad joke about battered women after another and I was fairly unskilled at that point. But I was smart enough not to jump across the desk and choke him or anything because I knew that would set me back. So I went out and had to get some sales skills from my brother to figure out how I can get them interested in what I was trying to promote their but I also found out who had power over this guy and who has interest in the fact that this is how he responded to me and how do I document this? I found out of course that the city Council and the mayor had authority over the chief. So I then had to analyze who has authority with the mayor. It was his administrative assistant who had been there for years and I had a meeting with her and we talked and it

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

turned out her sister had been battered and she was big on the issue. She got that mayor all gung [NULL] about what we were trying to do in terms of putting this Duluth project into place. He went with me and she went along as well and we talked to the chief of police and he was a friend of the judge in the community so we had a meeting the next time with me the chief of police on the judge in the mayor and the administrative assistant and, lo and behold, he was different with them and no jokes about battered women and he was all ears. It was really one of my big learning experiences. I also learned to find out when I was meeting with people what was important to them and what was going on at the city Council level and what was going on at the County Commissioner level. How could I contextualize what I was about to bring to them in those terms? How could I help them? Was I going to the city Council because I wanted more people on the force or he wanted more technology or that kind of thing? I could help them out because I knew domestic violence was one of the bigger problems in the community. I even went so far to find out in this particular Chiefs case that he liked to garden. I would talk to him about the gardening and all kinds of things in my tomatoes and I did not have a garden. I was a liar at this point but these are one of the sales skills I got from my brother. Go in and shake his hand and look around the room. I started to see myself as somebody he wanted to meet. You will see that coming up. Instead of going in there and say there is a problem here. I would always go in and say, I have some information that I think you might be interested in. I actually have a grant to do this work and I am finding out your Mike connections with other programs throughout the country that there are some new tools being developed and would you like to take a look at them. I also find in talking to women that there seems to be a problem. This is where there is a caveat with my original thing about get all of your data. You can, depending on your community, go to them in advance of getting all of your data and say across the country there are a lot of arrests of victims of domestic violence and sometimes they should be arrested and sometimes they are using legal violence in self-defense. In a lot of communities, they have come up with the self-defense protocols and just anecdotally I am hearing this come up again and again and I can take a look at the last few

This project is supported by grant #2015-TA-AX-K032 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

years and get all the numbers if you're interested or we can assume that if it is not a problem here it may be coming down the road. So what you say we take a look at the self-defense protocol from this blueprint created and St. Paul and you would be the first one to know whether or not this would work here or maybe we can modify it and blah blah blah. Right? So my brother told me when I first went to him when I -- when the door was slammed in my face by the chief of police that I should go back to him and say, okay, even though you tell me that everything is going fine, if I here is an advocate from somebody that there was a problem with the response of a particular officer, would you want me to tell you? My brother said, say to him as an enlightened administrator, would you want to know this. I did not use that particular phrasing. But it is hard for an administrator, a decision-maker in an organization to say that I don't want to hear about any problems. If they do, that would be when you go back to your office and you put it in an email and it says my understanding is that you are not really interested in hearing when I find out about particular problems from the women I work with. So get it in writing. I talked to advocacy programs who say they won't call me back. So I say okay call them for an appointment and then you follow it up with an email and you try it three times and then you up the ante. You go up the scale. Who does care again. Okay to the mayor or state counsel person you have already established a relationship with. Here is what I am trying to do to bring this good thing to the community and here is the response I am getting. As you can see, by the time, we are running out of it, as usual. But you will have an upper -- another opportunity next week and I am always available through Praxis. You can contact Amalfi who can get in touch with me or you can talk to her as well about particular problems as they come up and what might work for you. Okay? Thank you.

>> Are you there, Amalfi?

>> I was on mute. Thank you for being with us today. Thank you, Rose, for your time. The updated PowerPoint that we used today is available at the bottom of your screen in the materials box. Also under web links there are links to a survey monkey evaluation and we

Praxis International –
Blueprint for Safety

Please note: This text was generated during the in-session webinar closed captioning and is less accurate than an official transcript. We apologize for any confusion created.

encourage you all to do that because that is what prompted today's webinar and the follow-up we will be doing next month with Bree. Again, I invite you to come back for the second part of this conversation next month and keep an eye out for registration, and we will be sending out some follow-up to this webinar with some other resources that she talked about today. Thank you for your time and Thank you, Rose.

>> Thank you, everybody. Have a good afternoon. Goodbye.

>>