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New Guides to The Domestic Violence Best Practice Assessment: Victim-Witness Services, Bail Setting and Pre-Trial Release

Denise Eng & Rhonda Martinson

9/26/19

[Please stand by for realtime captions]

>> Hello everyone. Thank you for joining. We are ready to get started. Hello. Welcome to the practice webinar on best practice assessment of victim witness services, bill setting and pretrial release. My name is 2B, a senior advisor here and I'm joined by my colleague Kue Chang, and Rhonda Martinson. We are pleased to present the newly released assessment tools I mentioned. The tools are the next in a series of tools developed by praxis to a communities and examine the response to domestic violence. Many of you on the call have been involved in efforts over the past 40 years to relationships, improve communication and develop policies that will strengthen the response to this violence. We refer to this organized effort as a coordinated community response to domestic violence or a CCR. The domestic violence best practice guides have been developed to help teams into the key questions, how are we doing? Are we doing what we set out to do in our CCR? Is it having impact we want? And what do we want to adjust? Before we get into the content of the webinar, I will turn things over to Kue who will give us guidance on how the webinar will work.

>> Hello everybody. If you have any issues, you can dial the number listed. 1-800-832-0736, and enter the following code.

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>> Deb Werner will be closed-captioned, if you look at the bottom right in box on your screen, you did see the captions, they are happening in life, so there might be some issues with accuracy and timing but, it should be there.

>> Besides from that, there's the Q&A box where you can answer questions you have and the presenters will address them accordingly depending on the time we have. If you have any other issues, you can contact me, and we can get back to you. I hope you have a great webinar.

>> The best practice tool have been developed by praxis, to help to enhance the response and if you have attended over the webinars, you most likely have seen this slide or something like it. It illustrates the confusion maze that someone who is Rachel, enters once an episode of violence has occurred. This response will involve dozens of steps and dozens of workers who will intervene. In a CCR workers understand the importance of engaging with victims of violence at each point in the case and ask these questions. Are we prepared to interrupt actions and patterns of sustained battery, their interventions have unintended harmful impacts? Are we sending messages of help and accountability? Is every door and open door to someone seeking safety? Who seeks or gets drawn into community systems? Are we on the same page? Is each practitioner prepared to do this thing was battering from other forms of domestic violence? Will our actions make it better or worse for Rachel and her children?

>> The best practice tools have been designed to assist partners in answering these questions. We learned a lot about how work is structurally coordinated in the criminal legal system in ways that enhance or diminish safety and accountability.

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>> Consequently we know more much more than we did about 40 years ago about how to design interventions that account for battering and the mystic violence particularly in the criminal legal system. The tools are an effective way to study how your legal system works where are the gaps, and how your practices can be organized to be better account for domestic violence.

>> The best practice tools are a method of analyzing institutions drawn from the worker practice and others. Over 100 safety and accountability audits have led to some broad consensus about what makes for effective interventions. This work led to the development of the blueprint for safety, a comprehensive approach to criminal justice domestic violence case proceedings and to the best practice assessments. The BPA are intended to be a relatively quick look at one or more points of intervention in that system. Each of these strategies provides a structure for taking a close look I have a criminal ecosystem is organized to incorporate certain features such as safety and accountability, using an interagency team. It is not an assessment of you selected us or job performance of individual workers.

>> I'm not going to provide a detailed overview here because we've done several webinars on earlier document. If you're not been on any of these webinars before you can find them archived on the practice website.

>> We will include a link in the Q&A box. The guides are designed to be done with a small team probably 3 to 5 people and usually conducted over a relatively short time, several weeks almost a few months. The guides have a limited focus. Only often a single agency such as 911 or police investigations. The guides do not require additional focus groups, this voice is represented advocates, although a community certainly could decide to about one focus groups of survivors. This approach is ideal when the team doesn't have a lot of

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time to invest or it's challenging to get brought interagency agreement to conduct the assessment. It has the advantage of having a narrow scope of inquiry and can be used if a particular agency is interested in taking the temperature of its current response.

>> Let's get into the content. They lay out three steps. It is not intended that for example a police chief -- is not going to be the police chief or a prosecutor sitting in the office, it is intended to have a small interagency team so it's important representatives being assessed be included, and one practitioner to link up with her work and advocate at the table. According to will help them identify team members help generate buy-in for the project and organize the work. The team will map out the steps, substeps linkages and information flow for the agency being assessed. And then they were review some reports and policies using the templates provided in the best practice guide. Finally it would generate some findings and recommendations that may or may not result in some kind of formal report that can be used to make adjustments that will prove the response in domestic violence cases.

>> These are the existing guides laying out a way to analyze a response to my 11, patrol, police investigation and charging. The child protective services guide is the only BPSA guide that is not analyzed criminal legal system response. You can find previous webinars on these tools on the practice website along with the guides and work.

>> Today we are introducing the new tools victim witness, Bill's setting and pretrial release. You can access the tools by downloading them at the link included in the Q&A box.

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>> Will talk more about each of these guys but let me give you a little content for each. The guide is designed to examine the victim witness response for those connected to the prosecutor's office. Police Department sometimes have victim witness staff located there so this guide may not be as relevant to that model.

>> The bail and pretrial release tools were developed with the recognition that some committees have a robust structure for these points of interest but others do not. Some committees have dedicated failed evaluators and staff dedicated to supervision of defendants were released pending trial and others do not. If there are no dedicated staff for the functions, they must be performed by someone in the criminal system, usually but not always the prosecutor. The tools are designed to allow for assessment regardless of the community structure.

>> I'm going to bring in my colleague, Rhonda Martinson to expand about the steps involved in the assessment.

>> We want to go over this quickly, welcome to the webinar. We want to get into the best practice content. Any comments about what people need to keep in mind?

>> Good afternoon. Feel free to chat in any questions, Denise will monitor those and interject. In general, about organizing and preparation, the first thing is assigned coordinator. I got a chance to review the attendance list and I know many of you have positions of coordination and experience, I am preaching to the choir but as you know the work of the team is not going to get done without someone whose job is to coordinate, it's important to have somebody whose job it is to schedule and facilitate meetings, meeting with members keep track of who's doing what and get access to policies and case files.

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>> Similarly it's important to include people who have a desire to investigate the system and openness to how to improve, it's important and key to include community-based domestic violence advocates who can speak to the experiences victims have had with the system's response. And team members can benefit from their expertise. Your team members who have some experience or history of domestic violence work and the work of your local criminal justice system, it would not be helpful or credible to a fine to make to have people that are overwhelmed with other time commitments and cannot participate fully, or people that are brand-new, to starting the job and do not know anything, coordination is key. You can select a variety of timelines, practice and their consultants including myself that a great number of these projects and we can brainstorm about whether you want to do this in a one-week setting or because of team member time commitments, to spread this out over a period of months.

>> Talk about what type of the confidentiality agreement is necessary and how will you ensure that discussions of police reports, case files, individual cases stayed in the group, if you decide to utilize supportive information such as focus groups, how will you for sure those people participating that the information and identities will be confidential. Practice and the consultants have a great deal of experience in that area and you can brainstorm with you need agreement and if so how to draft it.

>> You will look at case files or reports of some sort, we will talk about that in a moment because mapping your system is a great way to locate those reports and documents and case files.

>> Thank you. We will move into the heart of assessment, mapping and analyzing case processing. The first step is to map out the system, can you talk

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about how mapping happens, understand the response got you talk about why mapping is important and how it adds to the understanding of the agency's response.

>> Sometimes, for me personally we define something as a slice of life example. I'm reminded of a project I was involved in in a small community on the west side of the country. Very small system, for example a lot of people are the only people and might have people that are working two different places, so everywhere I went to inquire about the steps we are talking about in the system to make a map, each person told me we do that we do not just write it down and I would go to the next person and they say we do that but we do not write that down.

>> I suggested at the end of my visit, I was going to get them T-shirts that say we do that we do not write it down. Mapping is a way to write it down, you as a prosecutor, as a police officer, you get how your system works, the other partners in the system may not and certainly the victims we serve in our community do not so mapping helps us understand how the survivor of domestic violence might experience his or her experience or touching your system, have the experience becomes a case that people process. To do that we use the expertise of team members, we talked to one another, ask what happens here, who does what here, probably not one single team member knows all of those potential points of intervention.

>> Drawing on the expertise of team members, question them, you might think of this as miniature interviews of them about the steps that are taken in a part of the system, identify which people are doing those things, paper trails, this is a great way to find where we report documents, checklists, and where they exist as you step through the system, this person does the report, there is where they

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determine probable cause, that's a point which a supervisor reviews the report, this will identify gaps and information you have. You may find you to go outside your team and speak to someone else perhaps an agency leader, about how this part of the system works. And it can serve as an ongoing reference throughout the assessment, it's a place to go back if you're confused about something, finding a gap in the information you have, need to explain something to somebody, this is where that point in the map says this, this is the point where this person begins their work.

>> Mapping is one of my favorite activities for helping uncovered response because of what you describe, it can be a great teaching tool, and the way of laying things out and the other thing oftentimes when I did mapping exercises, I have found that people had taken for granted what they think of people are doing and so it can be a useful way of uncovering new information people did not know and can create a moment for people where they understand their own response and the response of the agency.

>> I want to take a minute to look at some examples of mapping. This is a sample victim witness case map, can you tell us a little bit about our team might go about creating a similar map?

>> First of all, I urge people not to be intimidated by how nice this map is. Doing something like this can be intimidating so your map will not look like this right away. Also the points in the subject matter you see on this particular map will look different on yours due to jurisdiction or community differences and job descriptions, victim rights, parameters of any grant funding, recognizing that the core steps that you see are probably going to be the same or similar, the following questions will help build an accurate map. Think of a map beginning with a team discussion, and interview of a person, start by asking simple things

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like how does the domestic violence case come to your attention, what is the first thing you would do? What's the next step? And then continue onward, it might be helpful when talking to this person with experience, step through a case with them and the team member that is answering the questions for you can cover all the angles like what is this or that? Do we have a two-tiered map where if this happens then this, if this happens then this.

>> Them out before you right now you'll see the black boxes indicate specific points of intervention this map was created after a team discussion as we are describing. If you do not have the existing team experience to build these blocks you see, consider doing what the teams I've worked with on the East Coast have done recently which they invited agency leaders or experienced agency staff people to come to the mapping meeting so they can interview them to complete a more accurate map.

>> The black boxes .2 intervention, the lighter boxes are filled in with the activities of the victim person. We recognize that all communities have a victim witness person attached to the prosecutor's office. These duties are handled by somebody whether it's a prosecutor, administrative person, or so on. Mapping helps the team identify any additional materials they might need for the mapping or the assessment. You might think of us a book that can act as a reference so regarding the response that you see, I would think it is important to have her reference your state victim rights statutes or Constitution.

>> I appreciate your point about being the function, being necessary to carry out regardless of whether you have a person who is dedicated to do this.

>> Think creatively about how these functions are covered in your community. We have a couple of questions about templates for mapping and if we can make

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them available. The maps are in the guide and will be available and you can download the PowerPoint.

>> Let's look at the bill processing that, this is a community that specialized practitioners for this purpose. Who would you bring to the table to create this map? What do you take away from it?

>> Information related to bill setting is documented by police and referred to by prosecutors appearing in court it is important to bring them to the table, depending on the jurisdiction, administration staff in the prosecutor's office, they are also involved information uploads or information sharing on bail. It is helpful to identify if that's the case in your community, invite them to the table.

>> Staff is involved by the delegation for the schedule by collecting bill that might be posted for an incarcerated person. Or making incarcerated persons available for bail hearings.

>> Jail staff could be relevant folks at the table.

>> Let's look at the second processing map. This is an example in the committee that does not have the specialized practitioner who is responsible for bail setting. Normally the judge set bail. How would that look in the community? Who would you bring together?

>> I would encourage participants to type in in your community who might be responsible for these actions, assuming there are many people on this call that do not have a specialized person such as in the previous map. We welcome any information, again in a community these duties may be carried out not by specialized person but a combination of existing people such as law

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enforcement, prosecution, probation staff, the people I suggest to bring to the table for the last map with all so apply here.

>> The difference between the two maps highlights the importance of being on the same page philosophy, policy and training, and being accountable to one another and when I say that I don't mean that's never important in any system I just mean that if you do not have a specialized person who is supposed to be a bit of an expert or an advisor, it highlights the importance of each practitioner that is doing parts of these actions to be on the same page have the same philosophy about safety, and being accountable and coordinated information sharing.

>> Also, what it shows is that the previous map, a specialized person in the experience, that the repetition of coordinating all this, it becomes an expert witness or advisor on bail if you will. And so that is something else that is different about the current map that there is not any one go to person. It emphasizes the importance of on being on the same page and have a good training, good policy sense and so on.

>> Let's move on to the pretrial release processing map. This refers to a community where there is a staff person whose job it is to be actively supervising domestic violence defendants who have been arrested and have been able to post bail or be released. What stands out in this map?

>> A couple of similarities and differences, similar to bill setting, we have two maps, the first one the specialized person and the second one whether it's not. Again just as with bill setting, if you have a specialized person, that person is acting as your expert, your advisor if you do not those duties fall to a number of people. Like the bill setting discussion we just had Those responsible lease

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decisions are also concerned about various types and levels of risk and that is similar between the bill setting function and the pretrial release. In pretrial release We additionally have to be well-versed in various types of monitoring because this position includes enforcement responsibility. If you're involved in pretrial release, pretrial release monitoring, specialization, it is not just jail or no jail you have to be aware of what's available in your community that this corresponds to particular defendants and type of risk he or she poses such as GPS monitoring, having a defendant check-in regularly, an authorized agency and so on.

>> As I look at this map I noticed that the split where the determination of risk and people cannot see this very well, it's easier to see if you print the PowerPoint.

>> One of the things I think, I would want to flush out is how you decide of something is low risk and how you design something as high risk.

>> I would want to understand in the process, how you make that determination's, the mapping can help to illuminate those questions that you asked.

>> We were involved in a project like that in the southern part of the country. We talked about whether people were utilizing a form of assessment, a tool or an instrument of some sort, or they were using statutory criteria and people talk with us on how they step through the criteria that they use whether it was from a statute or an instrument so you are right.

>> The final map depicts pretrial submission with a maybe a dedicated person is actually supervising the defendant. In that situation will be responsible for

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ensuring the defendant complies with the judges orders or who would be in a position to respond to violations?

>> I encourage anyone who has this situation in their community to type in. Typically law enforcement would be responded to a complaint related to a violation. That would be a difference -- as compared to the previous map, if you have no specialized pretrial release officer, who is conducting monitoring, was serving as the enforcement arm of this type of gel criminal justice system law enforcement is in the position of having to do this when responded to a complaint, perhaps a what is that is aware of this person is on pretrial release with certain conditions perhaps the victim are the ones that would be calling law enforcement saying, I'm aware this person is doing XY with the. Of course the prosecutor would be involved enforcement because information will be presented to them by law enforcement, to either charge a new client and bring them out of them or to bring a motion to modify or revoke bail until pretrial release in the original case.

>> Diane says the second model where we have dedicated people is aware works in their community. I encourage people to bring the people together who might touch this function in your community and figure out how things are working and what you might take for granted, when you might need to strengthen and go through those and they can be eliminated through the mapping process.

>> Let's move into looking at case files. This is a really -- one of the things that provides the knee of the assessment process, we want to look at the records and how they are used by the institutions we are examining. Depending on the focus of the assessment you might gather and read some warrant affidavits, bill evaluations, pretrial release orders, supervision case files, victim witness files.

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So through a careful reading of the records, the team will use a checklist to answer some specific question, what practices are evident? What are missing? How was victim safety or engagement built in or not, discovered in the cases to the map, the same process evidence in the case files? What is different? What can we build in or strengthen to improve our response.

>> Gave talk about our corner or advocate might identify what files might be available and how to gain access? What would the process look like?

>> I would welcome our listeners to type in any things they can think of as far as records, files, documents that are available. I learned a lot from people trading in what is existing, I would say consider files or reports that are recently closed with a variety of dispositions. Cases that are five years old are not going to be helpful in identifying themes of concerns and areas of needs, areas of needed policy development. Presenting information to an agency supervisor will not be credible. Similarly looking at case is that the right of dispositions will be important, you do not want to take the cases that were handled in stellar fashion went to trial and were one with exemplary collections of evidence, you want some of those, but it is helpful to credibly identify themes to also look at cases that were dismissed or declined for some reason, cases that were disposed of to negotiations and so on. Use your map to determine whether might be more than one type of file or record that could be reviewed so a few examples I can think of from projects I've involved in is discovering her with a project that the prosecutor's office there were two different sets of files, one kept by the prosecutor, the kind that we think of in a prosecutor's office, and also one kept separately by victim witness. And that has much more to do with victim communication, notification Which of course, is the topic of one of these

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new assessments. It is important to identify whether you are in a situation whether it's a dual or parallel file system like I am describing.

>> Bill setting may involve a number of checklist or forms that are filled out by someone before bail is set. Maddie might help you identify various points at which there might be short forms were checklist that you could look at. That would be similar to pretrial release, pretrial release offices are often looking at a variety of documents from a variety of places and they fill out forms or checklist, reports of their own and mapping can help you become aware of where this might exist.

>> About what case analysis is, it is reviewing a number of particular kinds of cases together as a team. You'll get DV cases generally, for particular subsets such as translation or stalking, teams generally speaking in my experience will talk through one or two of these cases first and then apply the checklist that you produce for you here and we are about to describe those check with. You apply the checklist and to become an outline for the case review so the members are reviewing consistently for the same thing, they are discussing the case is consistently based on the same item or the same ideas of best practice, they are taking notes consistently, at the end of the work they can identify themes credibly as opposed to that one oddball case that you got mad at.

>> In addition to the oddball case, we are not as a reminder we are not looking at the problematic practitioner, the person that people think is a bad bill evaluator. We are looking at what we learned from looking at the case is about how that worker is organized to document their work.

>> Let's get into the checklist. Each guide includes best practice checklist for Cessna response, this contains a sample practice to include in the case review

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checklist for victim witness services. The primary focus of this tool is those tied to the prosecutor's offices. These features are drawn from the blueprint for safety as a best practice document. The guide includes a list of essential knowledge for preferred response by victim witness staff which you can download from the website or the materials tab on the Weber platform. You talk about why these features are important?

>> As you can imagine checklist are long which is why we are asked regarding these here, I will hit some highlights, to the extent anyone on the call has questions or comments please feel free to type them in. If we cannot get them answered, we can follow up later.

>> The major area of items that we discussed on the best practice assessment, regards risk and danger. How is risk and danger assessed, in other words reason we do a best practice assessment is not to create a checklist for the worker efficiency, we look at how victims are served. And how victims safety is incorporated or not incorporated into the work practice. How are we making available tools and knowledge and expertise on Rick's assessment to the workers?

>> Risk and danger related items are probably the most important. Secondly we see when the risk and danger, we have the importance to victim safety as a connection with confidential victim advocacy which would be a community-based program. I'm not aware of very many system attached Alex the programs that have confidentiality. Most are not able to provide cover the geology so it's important for victim safety to have this part of the practice in the prosecutor's office to let people know clearly what advocates that the information the exchange is not going to be confidential.

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>> The other kind of risk and danger related item you see highlighted is medication with the prosecutor. Do people feel like like in other person to have a communicator with the person about the case, has input been obtained from the victim?

>> Victim engagement is the next big ticket item of things you'll see of items you see in the best practice checklist. Victim engagement as opposed to the discouragement, I saw the positions of many of you register for this call so I know it's more secret how many people and many of our criminal justice system across the country have discouragement maybe mistrust of our systems, that results from various types of discouragement however unintentional about how one acts up as they get involved in the criminal justice system so victim engagement commune a lot of things. Victim contact, being able to commit Kate with that person in their language and by which I don't necessarily mean English, Spanish, that's important also but also in language that's understandable. Using a lot of jargon or terminology being terse or strong with somebody, is not a helpful language to speak in. Seeking input from victims at all stages is important, I hear from focus groups of survivors, often I hear from victims that averages positions for examples, or they might be getting contact from the person in jail, unexpected things might be happening during probation, or during an appellate stage, this is often where victims do not have any contact information from anybody so it all stages it's important not just that what we think is important.

>> Linkages to others, victim witness has an important role perhaps in some communities the only role explain stuff to victims, explaining the system, telling them what's going on, notifying victims and again many of our state victim rights statutes are constitutionally requiring us to do that, it's important for

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victim witness services staff to have linkages and not just rubberstamp linkages but meaningful linkages and partnerships with the prosecutor, the probation department and community services.

>> I want to point out we are getting some comments in the Q&A box and I want to take a moment to address them and some folks have been talking about how things work in your community, about arrest for violations of conditional release being relatively rare, I just want to add that those are really good points of intervention to identify in your mapping and your case file analysis. The kind of things you're raising are important, think you can zero in on as you do the assessment to figure out if there are ways you can have a response. Someone else just chatted in, the risk pools, folks can look at that.

>> Some of talk about different kinds of documents they no longer look at. We will talk about the checklist themes regarding bill setting and conditions of release. This a big nationwide discussion going on right now about the use of money belt so there's a moment in many communities to eliminate money belt or limit who will be -- were that will be set we support the initiatives. Having said that we want to look at conditions of release and who needs what so you talk about the bill setting and conditions of release check with?

>> This. Hitting the highlights, I welcome anyone to input anything in the chat box. Want people to use where is doing the function, use a wide range of information sources so most of you have been a long for a long time so I don't have to go on about yes 911 recordings and police reports are helpful, I would include historical information that may not occur to someone, all police reports, previous bill evaluations, presentence investigations, perhaps previous applications for protection orders, and victim input a project I was involved in the past usability evaluation sheet that was simple, not a lot of items on it, but

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with the items that did exist were what I would see in a job application so things like where you live, do you own or rent, how long have you lived there? Do you go to school?

>> At the bottom in the space about two inches long, about a quarter inch high, imagine that, was a little space called victim input. You could just see this just enough room for maybe two or three words to squeeze in like do not one contact, is scared, once kids contact, even the form itself probably inadvertently but given a good message about the importance of victim input nor much room for it so that's one of my little vignette explanations about not just victim input in a rubberstamp fashion but meaningful input.

>> The other sections also highlight the bulk of items in this checklist, differentiation, the length of experience institutional analysis and other assessment forms that is created not all DV cases are the same. PRAXIS former director is calling out everyone, and you can imagine when these political cartoons were all the people are going in the same funnel and coming out the same and we know that is not the case in DV cases. Things that help us differentiate what things indicate we're trying to do that in the practice whether it is for risk assessment, collecting good-quality historical information, and lastly, how it is we work around the idea of ordering or not ordering contact. Is the victim input involve? Is the advocate involved? Is the risk assessment it helps aid the decision? Is there any course -- have a lot of past experience and projects in training related to its intimidation and if you read the criminal justice literature and research in that area, you know most practitioners experience is that when his intimidation is happening all the time and in domestic violence cases We have to be alert to that reality.

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>> When a question commit about what you see all police reports if that can be left open for stamens like we do not do it this way anymore when issues are present.

>> That is relevant and should reflect those concerns however we have found it helps to look at some cases with a repeat history so let's say you look at 20 cases as a team. You will choose a few cases that proceeded to trial, a few were dismissed, a few were declined. A few were resolved through clean negotiations, in my experience, some of the teams we have done have chosen to look at cases with super repeat offenders where they can go back 12, 15 years and look at all police reports. I think it's valid to collect as part of your discussion your notes and insight, you would not do some of these things that way anymore. But what we have found is that often has a big impact on the survivor, difficulties engaging were feeling like there are barriers engaging with the system, and perhaps inadvertent messages given to the defendant and others like defendant about safety or the lack of accountability in the community so that person is right to ask that question and there are some things that will not be done that way anymore so to speak, it is a good piece of information about why survivors might feel a certain way or there might be barriers or difficulties in that communication, and why some offenders become difficult to deal with because of accountability issues in the past.

>> We had a question about contacting victims safely. To gain their input. That is a huge question. It's something we do have a lot of time to delve into in this webinar. We will say that victim safety is about those priority one of the first things I think that needs to be considered is whether or not the victim conversation with whoever is involved with case processing whether that's a confidential conversation or not, it's one of the things that makes it important

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to make sure that a victim is connected to confidential committee advocates the first so that person can talk with the victim and think through with that person whether or not it will be safely talking to that person and with them I want to say and if you want your conversation but that please contact me at PRAXIS and we can talk about it more.

>> Can you take a couple of minutes, can you talk about the similar checklist themes.

>> Pretrial release, there are some similarities, about Bill as far as information collected, the importance of victim input and engagement, I will brush over contact with the defendant and victim engage because those discussions are similar as to what we had, and focus Roman on violations which would be different. One of the differences between pretrial and bail points of intervention is this enforcement obligation implied by the rule of pretrial release. One of the big areas you'll see in this checklist will be related to continuing assessment of safety when there are violations, you're not just simply speaking of risk assessment as one static thing that's the one point and that's it, and it still valid six months from now and you continually do that when there are violations.

>> Get input from victims and the advocates again, around the issue of violation and the occurrence of violations, get input from other community service providers that might be involved, you might have a batterers treatment provider that knows about this violation or knows about issues with the offender, he or she may be ordered to other treatment that may be summarily able to advise.

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>> In terms of gathering information to look at, it will be more challenging if you're in the community or you do not have dedicated people who are doing this kind of task that you have to be creative about who you might want to be able to look to see if they can help you find some kind of record that you can look at. What applications or summaries of police reports or if there's a risk tool that is used can we do something to communicate to others.

>> I want to move on over to policy analysis, this is the last section and the meat of the best practice assessment. Can you talk about why this is important?

>> I assume the reason people want to do some sort of an assessment is they anticipate finding things that could be improved. Think you might recommend that agencies change or create that perhaps does not exist. That will not be very credible if you do not even look at policies that exist. For example you might find something, a theme in your work that would normally point you towards recommending policy and that you have not looked to see if they do have a policy and maybe they have a policy but it is not being enforced in any way.

>> It's important as you do this work that you have mapped the system, if collected cases and you reviewed them, and look at and analyzing what policies might exist. It gives you a map the explanation that you are creating your system, a better picture, it also helps the pickax a bit better, you may be mapping something that people might be responding not as part of a policy but because they have done it that way. You can actually see in policies like we have a gap here in the policy, people are doing stuff but they are not having any guide to guide them, it's just a practice that begin and people kept doing it.

>> If you're wondering what we can find, in small jurisdictions, some deployments do not necessarily have written policies but what you should do is

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ask that they do use the guidance, what they go by, you might find other things that are being used as policy such as statutes, demonstrated codes or even training materials that people have collected.

>> We had a question that takes us back to the last slide, best practices for the best does -- do you have response for how she can find some more information on this?

>> Did you mean when his intimidation that is done by defense attorneys?

>> That's what it looks like.

>> I collect legal cases and articles about that situation. It's not something you can find very much about even as recently as two or three years ago but more recently we have seen prosecutors take a stronger stance on the situations across the country. What I could do, if it's okay, we can exchange email information I would be glad to share those cases with you and have a discussion.

>> Let's talk about policy review themes. Can you talk about the slide and the things you look for in policy review?

>> Basically, you will find much more copies of information within individual checklist that PRAXIS has produced and so we are hitting the highlights here. If you're going to review policy together, you want to look at one of the principles behind the policy or what is the mission, hallmarks of good quality, that would be as a common understanding of the goals of policy. It deals with the context of everything. Not all domestic violence cases are the same and the best practice assessment checklist do not approach DV cases if they are the same.

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>> You can see some of the other principles listed here, these are things that if you read criminal justice literature, about a good quality coordinated response, you'll see these terms written over and over again so they are helpful to think about when you look at policy because to be blunt, everyone is a good policy writer. Agency heads often hate to write, as you finish this work as an assessment team, you might be asked to help write it. As you review the existing policy and make recommendations for updated policy it's important to be thinking about what are the hallmarks of a good policy.

>> How you carry policy out, that's important so you see procedures listed here, any criteria to people to go by, any safety protections written in, get the idea of policies are simply are for worker efficiency and doesn't take into account some of these things about how you do it, have you carry it out, that is not helpful policy either. And monitoring is this idea of accountability is not all about the feather accountability, that's important, a best practice assessment contemplates accountability of practitioners to each other, how we make the right thing visible, how do we as agencies be accountable to one another, how do we remain accountable to the public.

>> Let's talk about in the gist of time, look at a sample policy. This is a policy sample, very abbreviated. It is drawn apart from the blueprint, if you are leading a policy review as part of the best practice assessment, you received these elements, how would you go about analyzing this against the themes you have identified?

>> You are talking about the simple policy on victim witness services.

>> One of the things it would be important is to make sure you're doing this with the team, you don't want people -- you do want one person taking over the

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discussion and telling other people what to think based on their expertise. You will have one or two people in the team that will be more expert in this area but you want to include everyone. It should be in a meeting not just one or two you of you having coffee and you bring your thoughts to the rest of the team. You should do this together. Step through this in an organized fashion, policy is not fun necessarily. It's dry and boring to read. It easy for people to look at a 20 page domestic violence policy and the privateers often say these first 10 pages were updated a few years ago, I will look at page 3. You need to look at the thing that's in its entirety, do credible work that is seen as credible by the endpoint and the users. I would add to that with regard to victim services, things you might also include in your review, thinking about what job descriptions might be the finding this person's work, acting as an impromptu policy and what professional expectations requirements, in some state victim when the staff must be licensed, is what you're supposed to do, there may be, if this is funded by a grant, maybe parameters set by your funder so these might be things that will be helpful to you in reviewing and setting policy.

>> A couple points about the policy that stand out to me, I see the first point says director victim witness person to make diligent efforts to contact victims as soon as possible after charging. Why is that important?

>> We had a project together where there was some policy related to this victim witness service and the language used was good faith efforts which that's a really common word you see in state statutes and it has a lot to do with liability for law enforcement.

>> There's nothing wrong with that I don't mean that as a snotty remark, as it relates to best practice of victim witness service, to address the violence of

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virus, victim witness services are mandated by by victim rights laws in many states to notify victims and to do other information giving functions.

>> It's good faith efforts it's not enough, diligent efforts, hard efforts I would a best practice should be.

>> I agree, saying it this way, this is what we would promote as a best practice and someone might say something different and it may not it's about policy if you don't say it quite that way but it's a good opportunity to engage in conversation within your team about what it means to contact victims and the expectations.

>> When you do the analysis you can look for things like that that are in the policy document and use them as an opportunity to have conversations about where you want to go.

>> It is a best practice assessment, it's not PRAXIS hollering at the one saying you have to do it this way, even the one word example, it's an example of what we mean by we look for a best practice and want to recommend best practice we are not getting mad at people or chastising people for not having things exactly the same way it does mean there's something bad about your policy. We are recommending

>> Let's talk about bill setting. How would you look for policy that guides bail selling if you do not have someone whose job it is to prepare a formal or recommendation to judge? Where would you look for that?

>> Having had some of these experiences myself, I've been a prosecutor and I've been involved in a number of projects having to do with Bail, if there is not a policy there may be a portion related to bail within an overall prosecution

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policy. For example, I train with somebody in his community is law enforcement's job to collect some basic information about bail and fill out a sheet with that and attach it to the police report. That's what the judge see. In a community I work in and grew up as a lawyer, that would be the prosecutor's job not a law enforcement officer's job so if there is no separate distinct policy on bail you may find a portion of the policy within the prosecution policy. I would look for if there is not a written policy, ask those people what they are required to submit documentation wise regarding Bill and how that works. You may find a checklist or form that is his acting as a policy guide to people about what they document. An example I will give is a project I was involved in we were doing an institutional analysis of the domestic violence bench in a large bulletin city. There was a position specialized to bail. That person said we do not need a policy, this is what we are trained on and they handle over a bill information collection form.

>> That person who is in a position viewed the form as the policy. If there is not a policy per se, as the person with the use for guidance.

>> In the interest of time, I will move us ahead to step number three which is reporting findings and recommend changes. This is the final step in the best practice assessment. Consolidate a report with the assessment he has learned and make recommendations for the change. The team would draw upon its map, the case analysis worksheets, the policy checklist to prepare a summary of what is learned. It may or may not be in the form of a formal or a complicated report but some sort of account of a key finding would be an important step to do as you close out your assessment and there is a corresponding template under review. This summary will provide a reference point for identify needed changes in practice and highlighting with the existing responses consistent with

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best practice recommendations. At the conclusion, you go to agency administrators who would be charged with making and economy changes in the response so they would have in place a concrete document of account of what is in place and what needs to change.

>> From our work with communities on the earlier best practice assessment, that I described at the beginning, these are some of the outcomes that some communities have had from doing this process. Some communities have developed follow-up questions for 9/11 responders, some communities have strengthened and improved consistency and risk assessment by patrol, some have improved investigation of stocking customer images have established an advocacy initiative the response, you can email us so we can send you information and a link to the PRAXIS resource response and there are other kinds of outcomes that folks have had from using these tools in the past. Can you think about what kinds of things to come out of this review?

>> In addition to what you said, tools and age groups practitioners to use, anticipating this and discussing this with supervisor of a deceased worked with - - is often a good persuader to engage in the project.

>> No one feels super good about opening themselves up to this level of vulnerability without getting a sense of what is in it for me. What can we expect so I would say, some tools, project cards that reminded officers of what the document and strangulation cases that make them more successful, I can also think of a visor being frustrated with not being able to supervise the writing and augmentation of police reports consistently so creating a supervisory you might say a checklist so they can lay down next to police report and use that to supervise the writing and the quality of the reports and that consistently.

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>> Those kind of things, also a big area of things you can expect our policy updates and changes, it is important for the team members will become local experts to be able to help with that, perhaps offer to do that. You can utilize people like PRAXIS and its consultants who have helped write policy so you do not have to re-create the wheel. And the third thing I would say, a common outcome of these projects, is training. I would say if that's going to be your experience if you embark on this project, the specific it's not helpful to say to someone as a recommendation, do training. Or rather be specific on what you mean by officers -- dating more training and by committing the presence of children. We looked at 25 police reports that 80% of them appear to have the involvement of children in some way and yet the identities and the status was not documented.

>> Training, policy, and tools I think you can anticipate being able to find and recommend.

>> I can think of some examples for about any of these three areas of analysis we've introduced. I'm excited to see how folks will make use of these tools and what we can learn together what people are seeing as they begin to implement these tools.

>> We are at 3:15. We have resources that are available to you if you're interested. We have the existing guides and the new guides, the additional video resources, checklist, pass webinars, many resources are available.

>> You can contact us if you are interested. Apply the best practice in your community and we can help you plan your assessment. If you have other questions following the Weber are contact us. You can contact us and we will respond to your concern.

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>> Many thanks to Rhonda for talking with us today and thank you to all of us for joining. Have a good day. Goodbye.

>> Thank you. Goodbye.

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