



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEW MEXICO

Pam Wiseman, Executive Director
New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence
pwiseman@nmcadv.org or (505) 246-9240
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Presentation to Health and Human Services Committee

Domestic violence is a significant and costly problem in New Mexico.

Can we do anything to improve the situation?

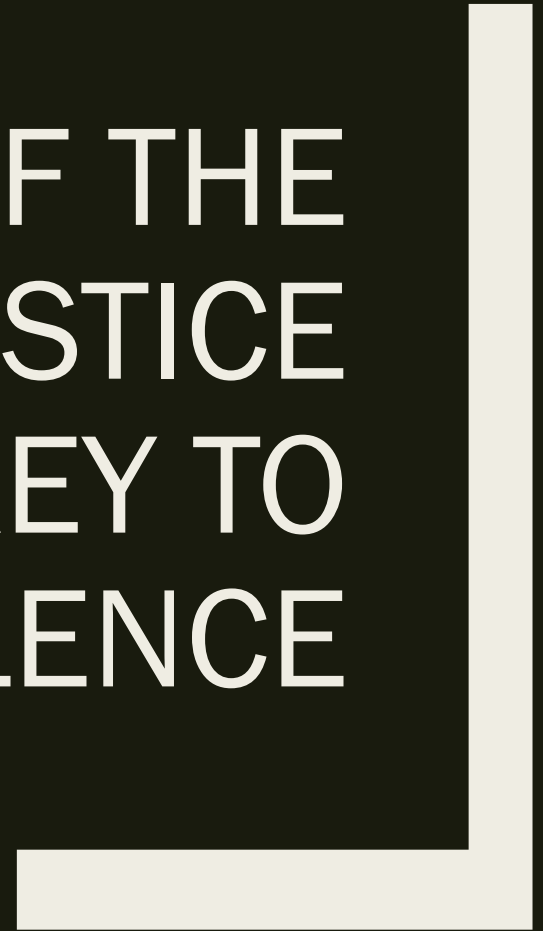
Five Recommendations

Recommendations come from:

- *National Task Force on Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) Task Force*
- *BIP Advisory Committee to CYFD*
- *Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) findings and recommendations*
- *Implementation group-provided input to CYFD and LFC on LFC findings*
- *DV Evidence Project (US Department of Health and Human Services)*

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THE RESPONSE OF THE
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SYSTEM IS KEY TO
REDUCING VIOLENCE



Recommendation #1

Standardize a Risk Assessment

- Ontario Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (ODARA)
 - *Primarily used by law enforcement*
- Validated tool
- Can be used by DA's, probation, to set bail, BIP's
- Results in a risk score
- Based on criminal history of offender and victim interview at the scene
- Could be piloted in several places by law enforcement

Recommendation #2

Strengthen Judicial Councils and Provide Support

- The New Mexico Supreme Court has directed all judicial districts to form their own criminal justice councils
- LFC recommends use of Coordinated Community Response Teams
- Councils provide substantially similar service and will have more impact

Recommendation #3

Colorado Model

- Model of batterer intervention that involves the criminal justice system
- Offenders are placed into categories and services based on risk
- Multidisciplinary teams (MDT's) determine placement into categories
- No set time for offender completion of program-completion is based on competency
- This project could also be piloted in several places to determine feasibility

Recommendation #4

Establish Core Competencies

- Establish core competencies for service providers and provide more frequent training, supervision and consultation in those competencies
- Research indicates that effectiveness is primarily based on skills of facilitators and quality of training and supervision they receive
- Actual curriculum appears to have minor impact; fidelity to whatever curriculum *is* used is important

Recommendation #5

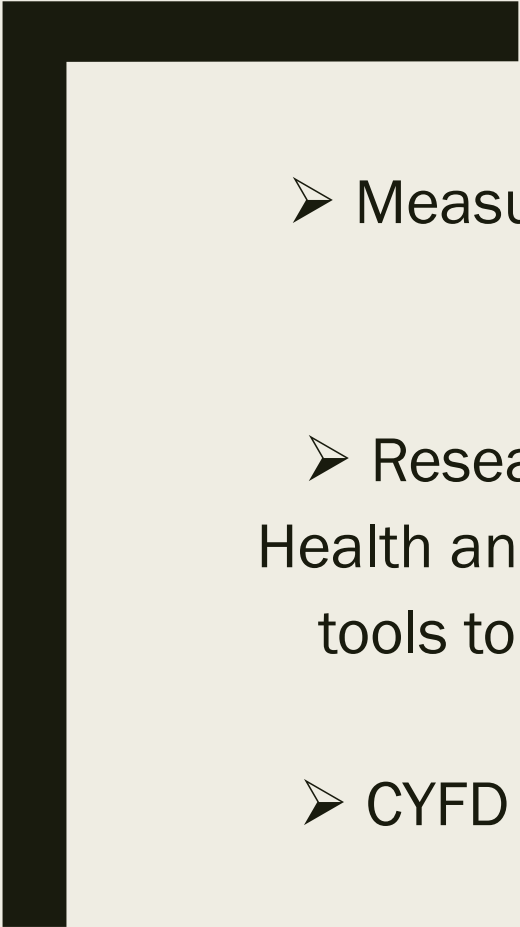
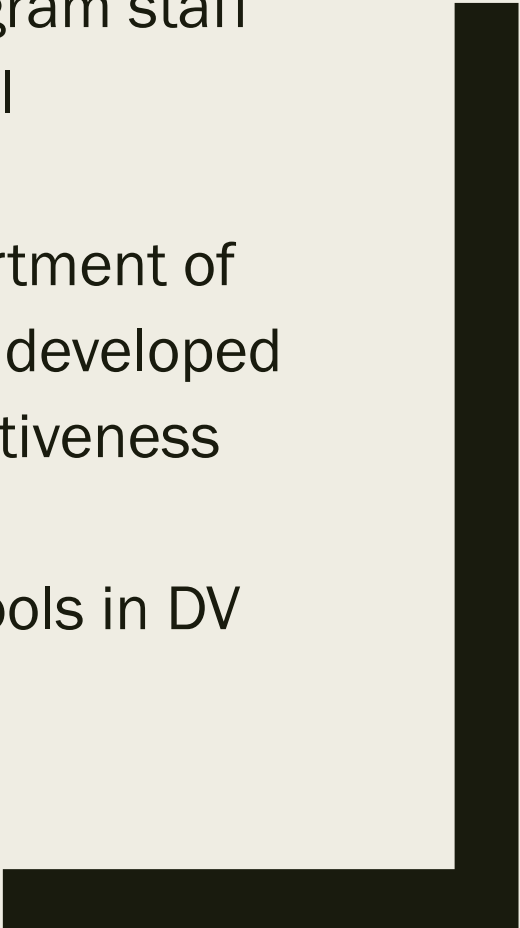
Develop Outcome Measures

- Recidivism
- Measure core competencies of BIP staff
- Identify community attitudes about domestic violence- those findings can form the basis of prevention efforts
- Assess how community attitudes influence likelihood of recidivism

Victim Services Outcomes

Evidence is clear
that when DV
program staff
does their work
well, violence is
reduced!

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- Measure degree to which program staff are doing their work well
 - Researchers for the US Department of Health and Human Services have developed tools to measure program effectiveness
 - CYFD will begin using those tools in DV programs

Costs

- The cost of improvement is small compared to the costs of doing nothing
- Some studies suggest the cost for one incident of recidivism may be as high as \$54,000
- Any investment in preventing recidivism will be returned
- **ECONOMIC IMPACT: The Cost of One Incident of Domestic Violence** The Circle Project Assoc. Inc. June 2016 (Saskatchewan)
<http://www.circleproject.ca/cp2015/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Economic-Impact-Cost-of-Domestic-Violence.pdf>

SMALL CHANGES
WITH POTENTIALLY
VERY LARGE IMPACT

