DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEW MEXICO

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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)**
  
dvevidenceproject.org
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!

dvevidence.org
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)
SMALL CHANGES WITH POTENTIALLY VERY LARGE IMPACT