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# Utilizing a Domestic Violence High Risk Team Model

December 8, 2016



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### Your Host:



Casey Gwinn, Esq President Alliance for HOPE International



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### Save the Date!











April 4-6, 2017 Hilton Milwaukee City Center - Wisconsin

17th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference



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#### Next Advanced Strangulation Course February 14-17 in San Diego, CA





Your presenter today:

#### Jeanne Geiger | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE High Risk Team Network

#### Kelly Dunne Chief of Operations Domestic Violence High Risk Team Model Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc.



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# UTILIZING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM MODEL

Kelly Dunne, Chief of Operations Domestic Violence High Risk Team Model Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc. © 2016 Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center, Inc. All rights reserved.

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DOMESTIC

High Risk Team Network

# **Domestic Violence High Risk Team Model**



Jeanne Geiger | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE High Risk Team Network

# AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS





# **BUILDS ON ASPECTS OF**

- Coordinated Community Response
- Fatality Review
- Family Justice Center





# THE CATALYST

EIGHT Domestic Violence Related Deaths





## Dorothy Giunta- Cotter August 12, 1966- March 26, 2002







# DECISIONS ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE INFORMATION WE HAVE TO BASE THEM ON.



# GAPS IN OUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSE SYSTEM AT THE TIME OF DOROTHY'S HOMICIDE:

Risk assessments were not being done consistently throughout the system

No formal process for communication

Assumption that victims in the most dangerous cases would seek safety in shelters

Jeanne Geiger

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE High Risk Team Network

# **RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

- The escalation of DV to a lethal level follows an identifiable pattern, with identifiable indicators." <sup>1</sup>
- Victims are most at risk of homicide from a batterer when leaving or engaging in legal separation. The most dangerous time is within the *first year of leaving, and more precisely within the first three months*.<sup>2</sup>
- " In the [intimate partner] femicide study, the majority of victims or perpetrators (up to 83%) or both had contact with criminal justice, victim assistance, and/or health care agencies in the year prior to the homicide..... This indicates opportunities for prevention by identification of women at risk and appropriate intervention." <sup>3</sup>
- Of victims who have been killed by an intimate partner, only 4% of them had ever availed themselves of the services of a domestic violence service provider.<sup>4</sup>

High Risk Team Network

# **RISK ASSESSMENT**



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# INTEGRATION OF RISK ASSESSMENT TOOLS INTO DV AGENCIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES





# WHICH RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL?



# FOR ADVOCATES:

- Administered by advocates & clinicians
- IP homicide & near-lethal assault
- 20 questions

DA

- Weighted scoring
- Requires training & certification
- Requires policy decisions

# FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Conducted by Law Enforcement
- IP homidice & near-lethal assault
- 11 questions
- Threshold score & officer override

Geiger

DOMES

High Risk Team Network

- Conducted on-scene
- Attaches to police report
- Criminal acts

DA-LE

- Designed for use by DVHRT
- Requires training
- Requires policy

# **GETTING THE RIGHT CASES TO THE TEAM**





# **DVHRT MODEL STRATEGIES**



# **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM**



Jeanne Geiger | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER | High Risk Team Network

# **DVHRT MEMBERSHIP**









# DEVELOPING AN INFORMED INTERVENTION PLAN THAT IS <u>PROACTIVE</u> NOT REACTIVE.



# **DVHRT TEAM MEMBER FUNCTIONS**

#### Member:

Intervention:



Administer the Danger Assessment Domestic Violence Agency Address immediate safety concerns of victim Provide comprehensive community based services

> On scene risk assessment, appropriate charges, 911, removal of firearms, follow- up investigation, safety checks

Monitor changes in offender security levels in jail Provide updated information on release dates

Prosecutor's Office

Lead or Co- Lead

Probation/Parole Department

Pretrial conditions of release and appropriate bail Electronic or GPS monitoring Monitor court dates

Jeanne Geiger

CRISIS CENTER

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE High Risk Team Network

Enhanced supervision Immediate sanctions for violations

# **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM**

### What the DVHRT does:

- Establish a process for accepting cases during meetings and between meetings when necessary.
- Hold regularly scheduled meetings at least monthly and take minutes.
- Review cases on a regular basis during meetings and provide ongoing case updates between meetings.
- Develop case-specific, individualized intervention plans.
- Collect and evaluate data.

# **DVHRT GOALS**



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## **DOES IT WORK?**



# WHAT DO WE HAVE NOW THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE THEN?

Before	After
Fractured response system	Coordinated response system
Hunch	Uniform risk assessments
OK police reports	Reports with more evidence incorporated
Unclear information to victims	Victim more fully informed
Reactive to dangerous offenders	Proactive approach
Inconsistent outcomes	Stronger offender containment
Territorial	Mutual Respect



# **MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM**

### **DVHRT Requirements:**

- The DVHRT is led or co-led by a non-governmental domestic violence agency that employs a DVHRT Coordinator.
- Core Team membership includes a non-governmental domestic violence agency, law enforcement, prosecution, probation, a pretrial assessment agency (where applicable), parole, and corrections.
- Additional Team partner organizations reflect community demographics and needs.

Jeiger

DOMEST

High Risk Team Network

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



Customization

**>** Training

Implementation

Evaluation



## **IS YOUR COMMUNITY READY?**



# **DVHRT MODEL OPTIMAL CONDITIONS**

# What is the quality of your current response to domestic violence?



# **DVHRT MODEL OPTIMAL CONDITIONS**

Bail Laws – conditions of release

Strangulation statute

Privilege & confidentiality

Firearms

Court administered risk tools

Criminal justice reform efforts



# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



Customization

Training

Implementation

Evaluation



# **QUESTIONS?**

# Please contact dvhrt@jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org for more information



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