Domestic Violence Fatality Review as a Strategic & Evaluative Tool for Social Change

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What is **Strategic** Fatality Review?

Specific focus on the domestic violence dynamics and characteristics in YOUR community

- Who is your typical victim? Perpetrator?
- Do they seek assistance? If so, where? If not, why not?
- How can you provide services that fit the needs?
- How can you improve your services for the people who need them?
What is **Evaluative** Fatality Review?

Critical examination of 3 areas:

- Agency response
- Systemic or multi-agency response
- Fatality review team’s policy, procedure, and response
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<tr>
<th>AGENCY SCOPE</th>
<th>DVFRT SCOPE</th>
<th>SYSTEMIC SCOPE</th>
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<td>In what areas can your agency improve policy and practice?</td>
<td>How can your team improve domestic violence prevention? (Concrete DVFRT goals)</td>
<td>How can the team and other groups collaborate to reduce DV incidents and fatalities?</td>
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<td>Revise risk/danger /other assessment tools</td>
<td>Reduce in # of DV fatalities</td>
<td>Establish CCR</td>
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<td>Provide DV dynamic training for staff</td>
<td>Increase in # of calls for service or assistance</td>
<td>Educate faith-based leaders, employers on DV dynamics</td>
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<td>Hire bilingual and culturally competent staff</td>
<td>Increase # of protective orders</td>
<td>Challenge insensitive or inaccurate images/language in media (RI, FL, WA)</td>
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5 Advanced Practices to Implement Strategic and Evaluative Fatality Review

- Identify victim and perpetrator barriers to help
- Seek input from surviving family and friends
- Link findings, solutions, and recommendations to case review
- Publicize data, reports, and recommendations
- Improve policy and procedures of the fatality review team, each agency, and the system
Identify Victim and Perpetrator
Barriers to Help

- Identify your community’s DV profile
  - What does DV look like? Racial/age/sexual orientation disparities?

- Barriers?
  - English proficiency
  - Varying cultural beliefs/values
  - Education
  - Employment, income, transportation

- Utilize and revise your DVFRT’s data collection tool so they address your DV profile, any disparities and/or barriers.
Seek Input from Surviving Family and Friends

- For case background and during report/recommendations phase

- Team members trained in crisis intervention should interview (DV shelter/local program, Victim/Witness)

- Provide written testimony

- Make sure to ask: How could the system have better served the decedent and/or perpetrator?
Link Findings, Solutions, and Recommendations to Case Review

Aggregate, statistical and/or non-identifying format only, 32.1-283.3, 1999

Chesterfield example (2006):

**Finding:** In 64% of the cases, the perpetrators had prior arrests. Almost half of these arrest records involved domestic violence arrests.

**Recommendation:** Identify repeat offenders and assess for increased services and/or supervision needs, i.e. specialized probation services, safety planning for victims, outreach services for family members and stricter sentencing recommendations.
Norfolk example (2011, draft):

**Finding:** In two cases, the victims were part of a closed community, in which English was a second language.

**Solution:** Agencies such as the Norfolk Community Services Board and the YWCA continue to educate and expand community outreach to communities of non-mainstream nationalities.

Since 2010, the YWCA has educated 3,862 community members on sexual assault, risk reduction, and domestic violence.
Publicize Data, Reports, and Recommendations

- Aggregate data, recommendations, suggested & enacted implementations, & impact of the DVFRT over time

- Stress system & agency accountability

- Work with media
  - Media Ambassadors
  - Post reports on all agency websites

- Forward reports to Board of Supervisors, City Counsel and other local authorities
Improve Policy and Procedures of the DVFRT, Agencies, & the System

- Review/revise your protocol and membership regularly
  - After dissemination of each report; annually, every 24 months, etc…
  - Use findings and recommendations when revising

- Hold agencies accountable for implementing recognized policy & practices improvements
  - Progress checks

- Suggest input or revise assessments and tools used by agencies
  - Danger Assessments (law enforcement, pretrial, probation)
  - Risk Assessments (local DV programs, BIP)
  - Various data collection tools
  - Revising MOUs, interagency agreements
References


Stay Informed

• Communicate with other DVFRTs

• **Participate in the upcoming VA DVFRTs Meet & Greet (date January or Feb 2012 @ OMCE)**

• Community-Defined Solutions to Violence Against Women Website: [http://communitysolutionsva.org](http://communitysolutionsva.org)

• VA DVFRT Website: [http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/Violence.htm](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/Violence.htm)

• National DV Fatality Review Initiative Website: [http://www.ndvfri.org/](http://www.ndvfri.org/)


• Contact Avina for technical assistance
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Open Discussion---Q/A