

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

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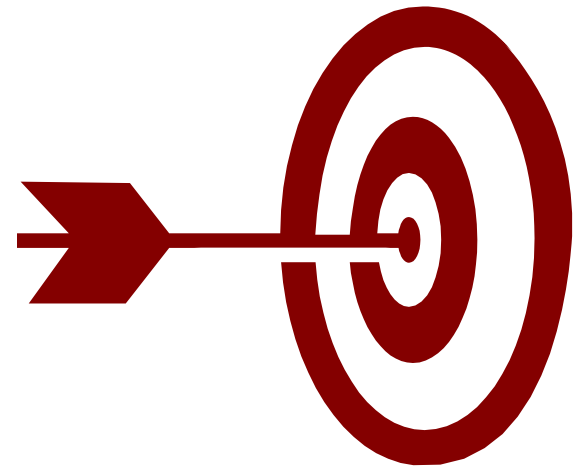
Advanced Coordinated Community Response & Leadership Institute

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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



AGENCY SCOPE

DVFRT SCOPE

SYSTEMIC SCOPE

In what areas can your agency improve policy and practice?

How can your team improve domestic violence prevention?
(Concrete DVFRT goals)

How can the team and other groups collaborate to reduce DV incidents and fatalities?

⌘ Revise risk/danger /other assessment tools

⌘ Provide DV dynamic training for staff

⌘ Hire bilingual and culturally competent staff

⌘ Reduce in # of DV fatalities

⌘ Increase in # of calls for service or assistance

⌘ Increase # of protective orders

⌘ Establish CCR

⌘ Educate faith-based leaders, employers on DV dynamics

⌘ Challenge insensitive or inaccurate images/language in media (RI, FL, WA)

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

- ⌘ Chesterfield County Intimate Partner and Family Violence Fatality Review Team. (July 2006). "How Many More?: Findings & Recommendations."
- ⌘ Norfolk Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. (October 2011). "Initial Report: Review of Domestic Violence Fatalities, Norfolk, Virginia 2005-2008 (Draft)."
- ⌘ Thompson, Robin. (2006, Spring). "Evoking social change: how domestic violence fatality team recommendations can make a difference." Part 1. *Fatality Review Bulletin*, Spring, 1-4.
- ⌘ Thompson, Robin. (2006, Spring/Summer). "Evoking social change: how domestic violence fatality team recommendations can make a difference." Part 2. *Fatality Review Bulletin*, Spring/Summer, 1-4.

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>
- VA DVFRT Website: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/Violence.htm>
- National DV Fatality Review Initiative Website: <http://www.ndvfri.org/>
- VAWnet Special Collection on Intimate Partner Violence Homicide Prevention: <http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVHomicide.php>
- Contact Avina for technical assistance

Contact Information

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Open Discussion---Q/A

