Introduction to Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Models
“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.”

Campbell, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., Johns Hopkins University, Intimate Partner Homicide: Review and Implications of Research and Policy
Lethality Assessment Program
Goals of the Lethality Assessment Program:

• Identifying victims of domestic violence who are the greatest risk of being killed, and

• Encouraging them to engage with domestic violence services

Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence
• Police previously on scene in 50% DV homicides

• Only 4% of homicide victims had sought services

• Re-assault dropped by 60% when victims went into shelter

Data from Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence
Tool and protocol for first responders to identify domestic violence victims who are at greatest risk of being killed and connect them with services on scene.
• Evidence-based, validated field instrument

• 11 question assessment

• Initiated by a first responder when:
  ▫ Intimate partner relationship involved
  ▫ Manifestation of danger
Based on scoring and officer discretion a specific protocol is initiated

- Alerts victim to danger, unequivocally
- Contacts highly trained advocate
- Encourages victim to speak with advocate

Protocol is consistent, simple, and positive

Both officers and advocates follow guidelines
Results

Use of Model
• 100% law enforcement participation
• Other first responders
• LAP used in 31 states

Impact on Victims
• 60% of victims speak to advocate
• 38% victims enter comprehensive DV services
• 34% decrease in domestic violence homicides

Maryland Network to End Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence High-Risk Team Model
Goal of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team

- Create a vehicle for communication among disciplines to provide the best possible response to victims at high risk
• Catalyst was a local tragedy

• Everyone did their job well, with the information they had

• System failure
Domestic Violence
High Risk Team

Primary Goal
- Homicide/re-assault reduction

Secondary Goal
- Audit of the system
Domestic Violence High Risk Team Must Include

- Law Enforcement
- Victim Advocacy Organization (lead or co-lead)
- Corrections Department
- Probation Department
- Prosecutor’s Office
• Examining the appropriate cases
• Team members
• Referrals
• Risk Assessment

All domestic violence cases

Risk Assessment

High risk cases

Image Courtesy of Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center
• Team process:

• Referral

• Information Gathering

• Case presentation, group risk assessment and discussion

• Fast track option
High Risk Teams
- 31 communities in MA
- 6 states

In Newburyport, MA
- 106 cases over 6 years
- ZERO homicides
- 74% cases use law enforcement
- 97% disposition rate
  ▫ 71% plead guilty
  ▫ 12% trial
  ▫ 13% dismissal
In Newburyport Cont’d.

- 90% victims accessed advocacy services
- 92% of cases, no re-assault reported
- 93% stayed in community without using domestic violence shelter