

The Nuts and Bolts of Coordinating a Community Response to Domestic Violence

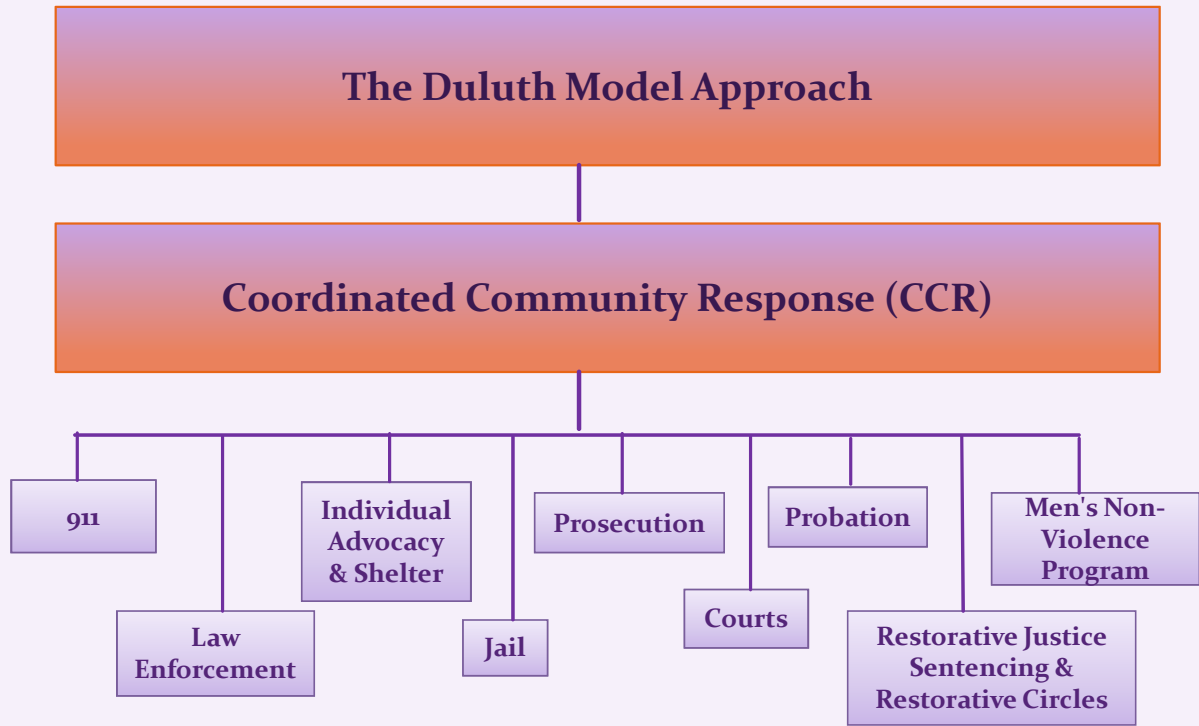
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**Domestic Abuse Intervention
Programs (DAIP)**



The Duluth Model

The Duluth Model is an organizing method that prioritizes victim safety and offender accountability within a social change framework. The model guides organizers to build interventions within systems that are aligned with the lived experience of victims.



Coordinated Community Response

An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance of battering/coercive control by:

Institutionalizing practices and procedures which centralize victim safety and offender accountability in domestic assault cases.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs

How Communities Define a Coordinated Community Response

Collaboration

The notion that when agencies respond to calls, come to meetings, respond to information requests and have a generally good relationship, there is collaboration.

Integration

The notion that when agencies have formal information sharing process, go out on calls or make decisions together or cross report, there is integration.

Coordination

The activity of intentionally linking each agency's work through policy to the role of the next agency based on the needs of survivors, offender accountability and improving the work experience of each agency.

Organizing Foundations For a Duluth Model Coordinated Response

- A shared understanding of the problem
- A method of sharing information within the CCR
- Centering survivors within systemic change initiatives
- Discovering the source of systemic problems
- Partnering on institutional changes which involve creating policy, protocols and structural shifts across the coordinated response.
- Solid understanding of how agencies organize workers
- Evaluating the effectiveness of those changes
- An individual or agency to coordinate work

Battering and the Crime of Domestic Assault

“Later, as laws were enacted in the U.S. to protect women and hold batterers accountable, “domestic violence” took on the gender-neutral meaning of any violence between partners occurring in the context of the home. As a result, every act of violence by one partner against another is now legally considered to be an act of domestic violence” (Pence and Dasgupta, 2006).

A Shared Understanding in a Duluth Model Organized CCR

- There are three types of domestic violence: battering/coercive control, resistive and non-battering violence.
- The power of the state should be restricted to controlling the illegal activity of the offender.
- Survivors are rarely free to cooperate with the system to hold offenders accountable.
- Account for power differences between survivor and offender.
- Those who batter are responsible for stopping their violence.

A Method of Sharing Information Within the Coordinated Response

- In making decisions, practitioners are only as good as the information they have.
- Information sharing needs to be designed to routinely flow by policy/protocol.
- Information needs to be useful for those receiving it.
- Information needs to be timely for those receiving it.
- Risk information needs to be collected, analyzed and distributed across the CCR.

Centering Survivors in Institutional Change Initiatives

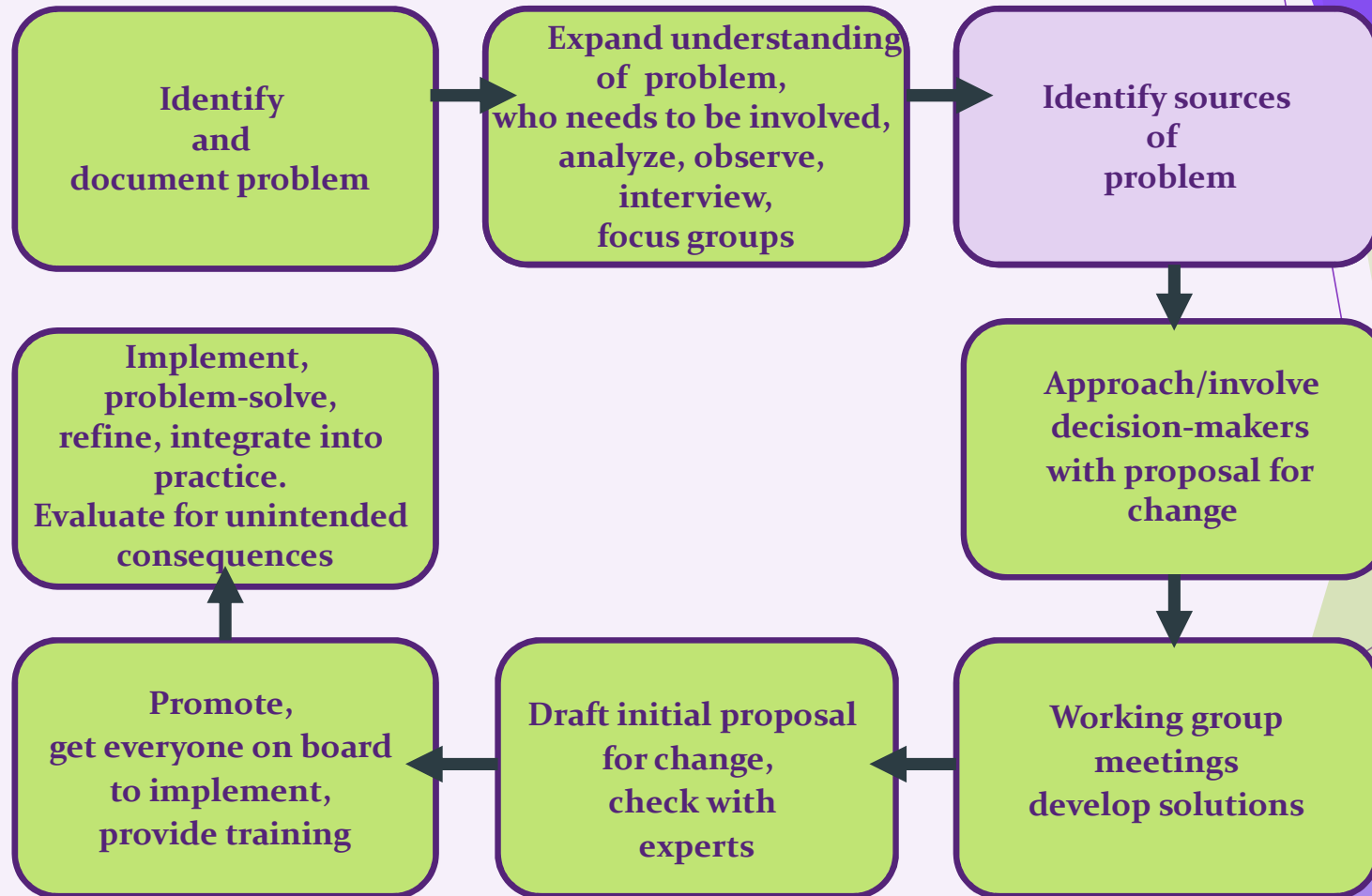
Survivor focus groups will provide an agenda for exploring gaps in any community's response and an understanding of what is working.

Survivor focus groups will also give evidence that goals have been met.

It is important that whoever the organizing/coordinating agency's mission is, it centers survivors rather than offender accountability.

Maintain an ongoing Survivor Advisory Group while organizing is taking place.

Steps in CCR Problem-Solving



Partnering on Institutional Changes

- Must have the trust and access to policy and protocols along with information from focus groups, ride/sit alongs, practitioner interviews and observations.
- Institutionalize the change by creating policy, protocols and structural shifts across the coordinated response.
- Policies should be centered on the needs of survivors and improve the ability to hold offenders accountable while also improving the work experience of the practitioner.

Solid Understanding of How Agencies Organize Workers



Figure 8: Audit Trails

Mission, Purpose and Function

- Mission concerns the overall goals of the organization
- Purpose refers to specific processes within the mission
- Function is the function of a practitioner in a specific context

How well does the Mission, Purpose, and Function centralize victim safety?

Mission, Purpose and Function

Duluth Police Domestic Violence Policy:

310.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The department is committed to engaging in a comprehensive approach to intervening in domestic abuse incidents. The investigation of these cases sets the foundation for almost every subsequent action by the courts and community-based agencies. It is the cornerstone of an effective, coordinated inter-agency response. The intent of the law and this order is to protect victims from ongoing domestic abuse.

This order defines the department's procedures in the initial investigation and response to domestic abuse incidents. This order is in compliance with Minnesota Statutes pertaining to police authority and responsibilities in domestic abuse cases.

Expand understanding
of problem,
who needs to be involved,
analyze, observe,
interview,
focus groups

Who controls access to practitioners or administrative details that are needed to expand understanding of the perceived problem?

How will focus groups with survivors, offenders or frontline practitioners expand understanding of the problem?

Focus Groups: Centering Victim Experience in Systemic Change

Planning focus groups:

- Who has access to the survivors?
- What time and venue will survivors show up to?
- What common experience are you looking for?
- What will survivors be told about their role in the project and how much will they be compensated?
- How will the focus group(s) be recorded?
- What snacks/beverages will be available?
- What support will be available after the focus group is over?
- Who will be there and what will be asked?

Focus Groups: Centering Victim Experience in Systemic Change

Conducting Focus Groups:

- Framing questions is important
- Follow-up questions is where most of the content comes from.
- Make sure all participants have a chance to speak.
- Create a conversation that builds on itself rather than questioning one survivor at a time.
- Know when the energy is waning (typically 1.5 to 2 hours) and finish up the conversation.

Focus Groups: Centering Victim Experience in Systemic Change

Analyzing focus groups:

- Who will transcribe/redact?
- Who will be on the analysis team?
- What themes are agreed upon and what supporting quotes will be used?
- Who will format the results into a report?
- Who will see the report or aspects of it?
- How will it be used to set an agenda for further work/change?

Ongoing Evaluation of Recidivism in Duluth's CCR

Re-offenses defined as arrests, non-arrests, citations and granted protection orders within eight years of last class date.

1/1/98 to 12/31/99 (N=353) **29% overall recidivism** (includes both men who completed and not completed class)

1/1/04 to 12/31/05 (N=326) **34% overall recidivism**

- ▶ 29% recidivism for men who completed CCR mandates
- ▶ 41% recidivism for men who did not

Counting all participants in both evaluations, approximately **7 out of 10** of male offenders did not end up back in the criminal or civil justice system 8 years from their last point of contact with the system.