

# **CITY OF YAKIMA**

## **LEGAL**

### **DEPARTMENT**

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### **MEMORANDUM**

September 30, 2016

TO: Dulce Gutierrez, Chair of the Public Safety Committee  
Holly Cousins, Public Safety Committee  
Kay Funk, Public Safety Committee

FROM: Cynthia Martinez, City Prosecutor

SUBJECT: Survey of City of Yakima Response

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Attached is a spreadsheet comparing the City of Yakima domestic violence response to the Blueprint for Safety model response. The Blueprint for Safety model response was developed using the data collected from the Minnesota Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and is considered an evidence based response.

At the heart of the Blue Print for Safety model is the Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT). Coordinated in that the team shares common goals and works cooperatively to ensure that their actions further the common goals and also enable other agencies to fulfill their goals. The training I attended in July was focused on measuring CCRT results. At the training, teams from around the country shared their collective goals. I noted common themes among the goals, which are as follows: Protect the victim, do no harm to the victim, and hold the defendant accountable. Every policy and protocol in a coordinated response is measured through the goal lens.

I have proposed the formation of a City of Yakima CCRT. To prepare this survey I met with most of the agencies involved in the City of Yakima response. All of those I spoke with were interested in participating in a City of Yakima CCRT. While not all of the model policies may be feasible for the City of Yakima, I believe a City of Yakima CCRT could develop a coordinated response using available resources and make recommendations on ways to enhance the response with additional resources.

cc. Jeff Cutter  
Cliff Moore  
Gary Jones

## City of Yakima DV Response Survey

Agency	Model Response	Yakima Response
General	Collaboration between all parties involved in the response.	No
	Shared goal between all of the parties.	No
	Periodic evaluation of the response to measure performance and alliance with collective goals.	No
911	Employees receive specialized training on recognizing and responding to DV calls.	Yes
	911 evidence is provided promptly upon request	911 Evidence is provided, but it is taking three to four weeks to provide evidence which slows down case processing.
Dispatch	Employees receive specialized training to safely dispatch officers to Domestic Violence calls.	Yes
Officer Response	Specialized Unit trained to respond and investigate Domestic Violence Calls.	No; Officers receive 2 to 4 hours in house training a year on Department's DV policy. They receive no ongoing training on DV Investigation. Sex crimes unit receives high level DV training but they do not respond to calls.
	DV Protocol including specialized report tools that access risk to victim.	Yes; (last audit 50% compliance with utilizing forms for intimate partners.)
	GOA (Defendant Gone on Arrival) Protocol	No
Officer response Post Investigation	Officers assigned to serve DV Warrants	No; DV warrants do not have priority and served on an as time permits basis.
	Collection of weapons after initial response	No; Arrangements will be made if Court ordered. We would probably utilize the measure more frequently if there were police personnel dedicated for the task.
	Collect additional evidence; follow-up photos and other electronic evidence	No
	Obtain Medical Reports	Inconsistent
	Engage and collaborate with victims	No
	Monitor Jail Call Recordings	Inconsistent
Prosecutor	DV Unit with special training	No; some prosecutors have received DV training.
	DV case protocol	We do have some protocols, but we have not adopted all best practices

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Agency	Model Response	Yakima Response
	GOA Protocol	No
Prosecuter cont.	Review of complete case file when charging	No; for the most part, we make charging decision based on police report only.
	Access to risk and defendant's prior history during bail consideration.	Risk assessment availability is inconsistent, we do review defendant's in state history. We do not have access to out of state history until later in the process.
	Direct flow of declined felony cases	No; We do get sent felony declines. Many times they go to the officer first or take an indirect path to our office, which causes delay in filing.
	Engage and collaborate with victims	No
Victim/witness	victim/witness personnel with DV training	No victim/witness service available
Victim Advocacy	Mix of external and internal Victim Advocacy	External Only
	Advocacy goes to the victim	No; victim must seek advocacy
Municipal Court	DV Court	No
	DV cases have higher priority	No
	Special protocol to get noncompliant DV probationers before the court quickly.	No
	Court Personnel trained to interact with DV Victims.	No
Probation	DV Unit with special training	No
	Probation Officers with DV case specific training	No
	Probation Officer has access to risk assessment and communicates with victim if non-compliance.	No
	Special Protocol for noncompliant DV Perpetrators	No
DV Treatment providers	Options for DV Treatment	Yes; we have several providers in town but cost is an issue.
	Access to risk assessment	No
	Direct line of communication between the treatment provider and the probation officer	No
Community Education	Schools	Yes; The YWCA is doing a healthy relationships presentation at the schools.

## City of Yakima DV Response Survey

Agency	Model Response	Yakima Response
Community Education Cont.	Faith Based	When requested the YWCA will provide education.
	Chamber of Commerce	When requested the YWCA will provide education.
	Mission/Homeless service provider	The new Mission Director does have training.
	Other	Other possible resources: YPD citizen academy