



The Ohio Attorney General's

2012 Summit on Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence

Outcome Report

How can we shift our response to survivors of domestic and sexual violence with the goal of:

- Improving outcomes for survivors
- Creating a systemic change in thinking to a survivor-centric system characterized by:
 - Self-determination
 - Coordinated response
 - Serving survivors where they are
- Strengthening community support for survivors
- Improving relationships across and within systems

August 30, 2012



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How can we make SHIFT happen?



Welcome... Amy O'Grady, Section Chief for the Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victims Section, welcomed approximately one hundred participants from disciplines that respond to victims of domestic and sexual violence (D/SV). Advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, health care providers, educators, and funders came together into a day-long conversation about how we need to think differently about our response to D/SV.

Looking to the past... Keynote, Walter DeKeseredy, spoke about when the response to survivors began and why. Looking to the past gives perspective on how in the beginning survivor's voices were central to the conversation and provided direction to what needed changed. Knowing the history is important and reminds us that now is the time we need to re-think what survivors need from us and move forward and create something new, not re-create what hasn't worked in the past.

The Conversation...Our facilitators, Tuesday Ryan-Hart and Deb Helber spoke to the purpose of the day together (see box above) and invited participants to challenge what they know and be open to shift their thinking for the day. Tuesday explained that this isn't a day to listen to subject matter experts talk about the issue, but to use what we know about D/SV and the effects on survivors and communities, and to think about how the response could be different. Today is about taking the time to hear others and recognize that changing systemic responses isn't easy or quick and that survivor's voices must be central to the conversation. But together we can work collectively to begin shifting the message about the acceptability of D/SV and improve how we respond, as individuals and communities, to the needs of survivors.

Checking in...To begin our conversation, we checked in with the question, "Who am I and what will keep me from fully participating today and how will I move past that?"

Cafés & Conversations...Cafés offer an opportunity to meet and talk with others for a period of time. It is a simple, yet powerful method of having conversations involving small table discussions aimed at focusing our attention on an issue and helping us move forward in the way we view our response. Cafés can be used in small or large groups and is guided by a simple set of parameters, called "Café Etiquette." Using the café model guides the conversational process, which generates creativity and next-level thinking. Participants are given a chance to truly share their views and beliefs about a topic and identify where they feel barriers exist to make change.

Café Etiquette

- Focus on what matters
- Contribute your thinking
- Speak your mind and heart
- Listen to understand
- Link and connect ideas
- Listen together for insights, themes, and deeper questions

The cafés opened with the question of "*What time is it in our community around issues of D/SV?*" Participants were asked to report out two insights that emerged at their tables. We then saw the following themes emerge around what we know. (Themes are on the next page)

Survivor Resiliency "*I was astonished to realize this misconception that anyone battered is low-income or low intelligence. I didn't finish up my Masters and Doctorate until my 50's.*"

What time is it?

Backlash	Redefine Success	New collaborations
Passion lost! Empathy lost! Low prosecution	It's time to redefine success - not just a criminal justice response (i.e. healthcare)	Time for transformative leadership to bring <u>all</u> collaborators to the table
Threats to the issues around domestic violence and sexual assault impact the path for the future	Time to take control of process, (i.e. don't run from EBP) - control it and use it	Reciprocal mentoring to individual/group motivate old/new members to sustain grassroots movement
It is a time of backlash for women and children's rights	Work within the scope of reality	Time to unify
Regression		Different time zones
Society (people at large) doesn't care about people (care about money - need to change laws)		Time to mentor/nurture new young people into the work
		Grow other advocates (community)

Act Differently	Truth To Power	Use our Tools
Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multidisciplinary • survivor-centered policies 	Time to call it what it is. Past, present, future - keep talking.	Time to implement tools (SARTs, Technology)
Modeling what we want to see NOT like "hot potato" (including our media)	Time to get angry (let's get loud)	Education about prevention and treatment at perpetration
Collaboration or merger - DV/SV	You must educate to advocate	
Co-optation		

Survivor-Centered	Funding	Culture Change
Refocus on “victim/survivors” rights	Show me the money!	Political and cultural seismic change
Response to first disclosure matters enormously	Sustainability and strengthening of our efforts (the challenge)	Reclaiming as women’s issue (return to the grassroots)
Victim-centered not system-centered		Political Support
Culturally-specific services legally, immigrants, systems – (laws, law enforcement, justice, treatment) linguistics, mainstream culture not always that person’s experience. “It’s the law” vs. “what’s fair.”		
System is not safety and trauma-centered for victims. Need more accountability (time to change/revise laws)		

With a better understanding of where people felt they and their communities were in responding to the needs of D/SV survivors, the facilitators led us into another round of cafés. It was time to think differently about what we do to shift our response. They framed it as “There are people who spend their time and energy sustaining ‘what is’. There are people who spend their time and energy understanding what is wrong with ‘what is’ and trying to fix it. And there are people who spend their time and energy creating something new.” We want to be the last group and move beyond the “fix it” approach.

Challenging Our Thinking... We moved into a second round of cafés around the question “What are the questions we need to be asking ourselves now?” The conversations gave participants a chance to share the questions they have and talk about how they shift the question from frustration to create something new.

The feedback and energy from the group was palpable. The “questions” fell into eleven major categories, with some examples given on next page:

“Questions” Themes:

Culture Shift

What does society gain
From maintaining a status
D/SV as a status quo?

How do we stop the violence
and change the culture?

System Accountability

How do we hold “systems”
accountable (because we matter
and people are outraged)?

Balance

How do we balance what
is right for the world with
survivor’s self-determination?

How do we turn this work
from individual safety to
community safety?

Individual Shift

How do I support change in
myself and others?

How do we improve within
our individual capacities?

Empathy

How do we rebuild empathy
within systems and
individuals?

Unity of Message

How do you frame your msg. to
move people to action?

How do we define the
problem?

Common Understanding

How do we unify and get on
the same team/message?

What’s the new game plan in
cultural change? (i.e. bra
burning and protests
don’t work)

Funding

How do funders fund from
a provider-centered basis?

How to fix funding so we
aren’t fighting for the
same dollars?

Impact Society

How do we make this issue
a national priority?

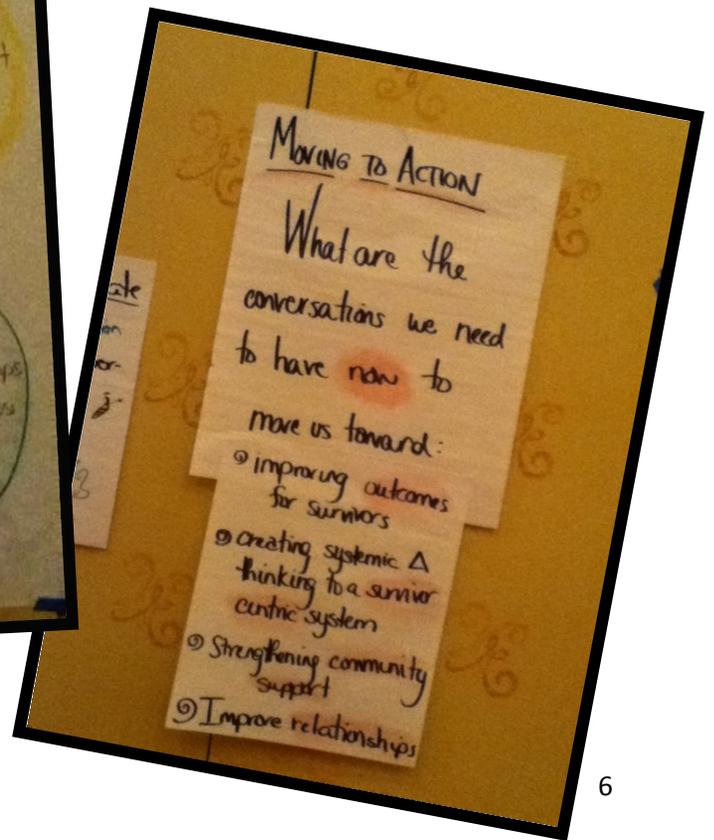
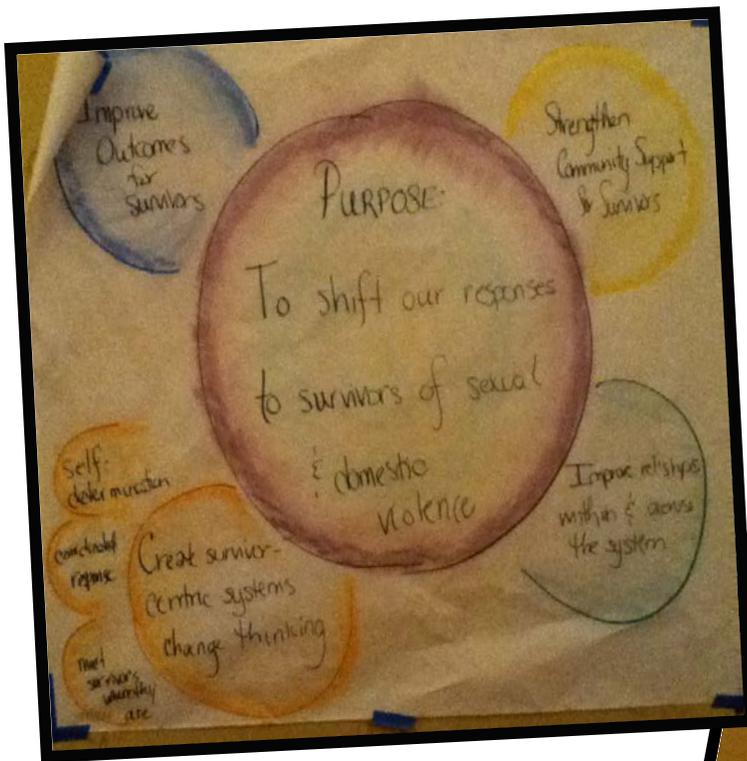
Why isn’t society more angry?
How do we change that?

Wicked Questions...we also uncovered some “wicked” questions or some fundamental questions to address as we move our work forward. These questions aren’t answerable today, but take us to the root of the issue and so need to be kept with us as we move forward in our work.

- What would happen if we didn’t take the money?
- How do we collaborate without getting co-opted and become “the system” and sanitized? Did we sell ourselves out to be mainstreamed?
- How do we turn D/SV into cancer? (i.e., make it socially acceptable and not “radical” to work toward eliminating it)

Other...

- What is our response to the backlash? (i.e., political movement, anger) What would it look like?
- How do we know what works? Where? How do we evaluate locally?
- What does survivor-centric success look like?
- What messages (from an advocacy perspective) are we sending that prevent collaboration with others (ex., law enforcement, prosecutors, AOD, etc.)?



HOW DO WE MAKE SHIFT HAPPEN?

Open Space...after a break for lunch, we got back to work. Deb shared that we'd build our own agenda this afternoon through Open Space. Open Space is a methodology that is useful to groups getting ready to work and involves the setting of the agenda by participants themselves. After explaining the process, we opened space with the question, "What are the conversations we need to have now to move this work forward?" Questions are posted into two sessions and small groups are formed to have meaningful conversations.

Twenty-one sessions were posted, and we spent the remainder of our afternoon in these workgroups:

Session 1

1. How do we unify our message?
2. How do we elevate the status of advocates to be on par with SANEs and LE so that survivors seek us out first?
3. How can the Department of Alcohol & Drugs support training and advocacy in the AOD field?
4. How does prevention utilize a survivor-centric system?
5. How do we leave behind "co-optation" and create a sustainable and collaborative movement?
6. How do we make it similar in awareness to cancer without the pathology or "sickness"?
7. What are untapped and creative opportunities for batterer accountability?
8. How do we not isolate the violence (i.e., silos of child, elder, LGBTQ, women, etc)?
9. How do we ensure crime victims legal rights are consistently honored and enforced throughout the criminal justice process?

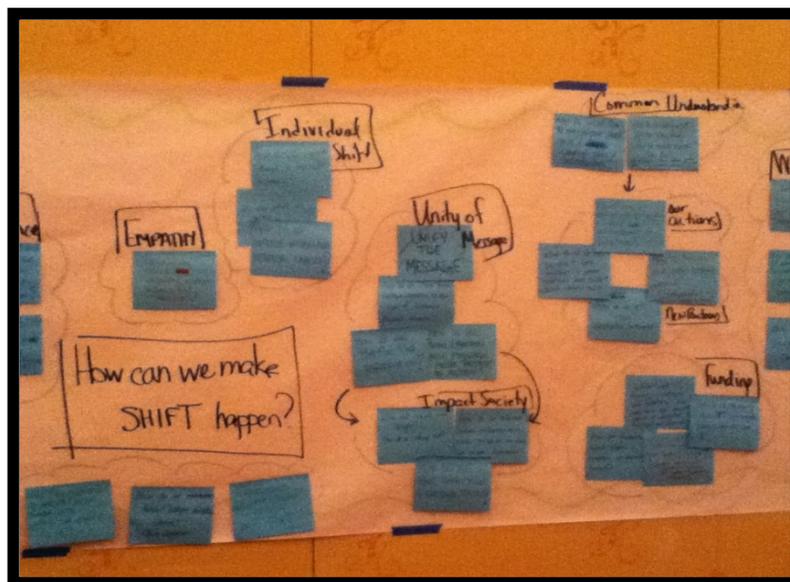


SURVIVORS VOICES:
MY LIFE IS VIOLENCE FREE NOW.
NOT FEAR FREE,
NOT IRRITATION FREE,
BUT VIOLENCE FREE.

10. Why is “for profit” a dirty word?
11. How do we change the definition of success in this work away from the criminal justice system?

Session 2

1. How do we get hospitals (healthcare) on board?
2. Why can we discuss sexual assault in public but not healthy sexual activity?
3. How do we address increasing poverty/income disparity?
4. How can we more effectively address sexual violence in college/education settings?
5. What needs to happen at the state and local level to involve men in ending violence against women?
6. Media awareness campaigns
7. In 2012, communities of color are still considered “underserved”. How can this be changed?
8. How do we bridge the gap between the system/public’s perception of DV and survivor’s experiences and perceptions?
9. How do we do and sustain radical work without scaring funders off?



Survivors Voices

What would you like to change about the services you use? What could have been helpful?

“Victims know how to fix the system. Everybody has a little different view on how to do it. If you put all those views together, you’ll go, “That’s a really good idea; that’s how the system needs to be fixed.”

What is the best part of using services in your community?

“I wish I would have called the police the first time he hit me and pressed charges right away.” When police arrived, they made it clear they were there on a domestic violence call and not because of immigration issues. Hearing that empowered her to call again later when she needed them.

Table Top Conversations...our final conversations of the day focused on how we work together. The facilitators asked, “*What do we realize that we need to do differently?*” and then “*How do we need to be together differently to do this?*” (see Appendix for all responses)

We came up with common threads of what needs to be done differently:

- Collaborating – share resources, knowledge, and be willing to challenge your own beliefs
- Find common ground through a willingness to not always be “right” and view others as “resistant to help”.
- Think differently – evaluate current model and try to think what could work differently. Be willing to do something new.
- Stay victim-centered

What it all means to our future

conversations...Throughout the day participants from multi-disciplines spoke about their frustrations but also their hopes about improving how to work together better as a way to reduce domestic and sexual violence in their communities.

- How do we begin to change our own conversations?
- What are we inviting others into?
- What do we need to change in our own conversation, our own dialogue with ourselves and others?
 - What is it about how we’re inviting people in that turns them away? What needs to shift in our own conversations?

Check Out...After an amazing day of working together, we ended with the question of “*How have I shifted today and how will I take that out of the room with me?*” This is an invitation for all of us to continue the conversations started today and invite others to join us.

Following Up and Next Steps...Sandy Huntzinger from the Ohio Attorney General's Office will send out an Outcome Summary of the day as well as work with participants to connect and carry on the work started in the room. Hopefully with support and new networks created, the conversations started can begin to change the way we think about our work and the needs of survivors. Now is the time to move toward supporting survivors and ourselves differently.

Appendix

Appendix 1

Question 1...What do we realize that we need to do differently?

With Ourselves

- Be persistent
- Be part of the change, run for a political office
- Confront victim blaming
- Believe in ourselves as advocates, as professionals
- Be loud!
- Self-care
- Use gender-specific language (ex. VAW)
- Recognize the limitations of funding/time

With Others

- Share resources
 - Grow our collaborations Need to identify this before we can begin movement forward
 - DV/SV advocates need to collaborate more
 - Share the FREE
- Find common ground
 - Keep knocking (reaching out)
 - Reach out and become aware of each other's roles/organizations
 - Collaborate to overcome the limitations of funding and time (set realistic expectations/goals)
- How do we talk with one another (what language do we speak)
 - Bring in the "perceived resisters" of change into the conversation. What are we doing/not doing that prevents them from being part of the answer to end violence?
- Build sustainable organizations – Not every agency leader is a financial wizard or manager. How do we support agencies to develop leadership and skills for their staff?
- Stay in touch

Local

- Network
 - Revitalize local task forces – ask them to provide feedback about past work
 - Encourage them to give feedback to the Office of Criminal Justice Services Family Violence Prevention Center about issues they should/could address

- Be willing to think differently – evaluate current model of service. Where did it fail?
 - Need to identify this before we can begin movement forward
 - Use the ecological model for serving survivors
- How do we invite others into the work we do?
- Provide victim-centered care/service
- Get off the grid/outside the box to make everyone feel the impact
- Engage media differently – rather than interviewing a neighbor about a DV/SV, we WANT them to contact the local DV/SV program. Be viewed as the source of best information.
- Motivation & energize the community to be active (ex., Citizen Court Watch Program)

Statewide

- Be willing to think differently – evaluate current model of service. Where did it fail?
 - Need to identify this before we can begin movement forward
- Need a public state level plan
 - For providing services, legal rights, standards for practices, and practice-based evidence for survivors
- Create regional funding streams

Question 2...How do we need to be together differently to do this?

- United Coalition – we need to know each other
- Bring conferences together
- Be open to emerging leaders
- To “Be” – Collaborate, cooperative & compassionate with self and others
- Cross-training
- Stop competing ...collaborate
- Collaborate differently – 1) ask what our organizations need; 2) How can we support each other in meeting those needs?
- Support one another – take on each other’s issues (look at other systems to engage)
- Colleagues are as important as survivors/clients
- Be authentic
- Stop making excuses
- Cut the politics
- Respect each other’s niches
- Find a champion who has or can build the needed relationships to move us forward
- Be open to new ideas
- Meet with the perceived antagonists
- Empower ourselves
- Continue the dialogue
- Improve relationship building skills
- Change the way we communicate with one another – know the difference in language and roles
- Need to talk with each other, not AT each other
- Local communities need more info about Office of Criminal Justice Services Family Violence Prevention Center
- Taking it to the streets – pound the pavement together (DV/SA/Child SA)
- Make new friends but keep the old



Appendix 2

Voices of Survivors

Based on survey questions asking survivors about their experience

What are the best and worst parts of using services in your community?

Best-

- “I wish I would have called the police the first time he hit me and pressed charges right away.” When the police arrived they made it very clear they were there for the domestic violence and not immigration issues. Hearing that empowered her to call again later when she needed them. – Immigrant survivor
- The best part is having support from other women. In group they have shown me another avenue such as resources and taken away some of my negative self-esteem. They replaced my hopelessness with optimism.
- My neighbors are watching out for me more and are more aware of what is going on in and around the neighborhood.

Worst-

- You have to jump through too many hoops to get help.
- The worst is to have the change of depending on someone else [in the system] for everything all over again.

What do you think are the biggest misconceptions in your community about IPV/SV

- Most people don't understand the manipulation involved with the abuse.
- I was astonished to realize this misconception that anyone who is battered is low-income or low intelligence. I didn't finish up my Masters and Doctorate until my 50's.

How does the violence affect other parts of your life?

- Violence affects people's lives in many ways. It's scary and uncomfortable. It may take time to overcome feeling fear.
- I feel like the violence affects my children's life more than I ever thought it would. I never want them to feel as though violence is okay and acceptable because it's not.
- If you asked me a year or two ago how I felt, I'm sure I would have had a completely different answer.

What challenges have occurred in your daily life as a result of the violence?

- In business I have to remind myself that I am competent and can contribute to society.

How have you kept resilient while experiencing the violence or in the aftermath of the violence?

- I won't go down. The stubbornness has bitten me in the ass more times than I can remember but it is what has kept me alive.
- It may be too late for me and my children but not for my grandchildren.
- My kids kept me resilient. My coping strategy is a bad memory.
- My life is violence free now. Not fear free, not irritation free, but violence free.

What would you like to change about the services you use? What could have been helpful?

- Victims know how to fix the system. Everybody has a little different view on how to do it. If you put all those views together you'll go, "That's a really good idea; that's how the system needs to be fixed."