

ACPCR
Facilitated Meeting Report

Date Submitted: 5 May 2015
Submitted By: Philip Crump

Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday 29 April 2015 9am-12pm
Meeting Location: United Way of Central New Mexico; 2340 Alamo Ave SE

Facilitator: Jessie Lawrence
Co-facilitator: Philip Crump
ADR/Support Staff: Tyson Hummell

Stakeholders and Participants: The Network
(See master sign-in for complete identification of participants)

Sgt. Rich	Michelle
Tori	Julia
Karen	Carol
Nan	Rosemary
Susan	Alisha
Quentin	Jan

Meeting Summary:

This was a “nonpublic” meeting attended by members of The Network—“The Network is an inclusive, multidisciplinary collaborative that seeks to reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence by coordinating state, tribal and local groups to strengthen our collective response to ending interpersonal violence.”

Many of the participants represented agencies which have had relationships or at least ongoing contact with APD and other law enforcement agencies in New Mexico. The APS officer present represented the Crimes Against Children unit. The overarching theme of the meeting was developing and utilizing a collaborative partnership between agencies and APD. There was considerable discussion of Domestic Violence training for officers, with consistent and uniform curricula developed in conjunction with concerned agencies. Of concern to several participants was the apparent indifference of officers when responding to DV calls, due to lack of sensitivity or the press of incoming calls; there are issues, they said, that could be addressed through more training.

Another theme is that of officers taking the time to listen to victims, to get reports correct and meaningful. This often hinges on immediate supervisors instructing field officers in what is important.

5 Core Topics for Every Meeting:

- I. **“What are your goals and expectations for Police / Community *relations* in Albuquerque?” and Why are these goals and expectations important to you (what experiences, values, beliefs, feelings influence your goals)?**
 - a. The community should be viewed in terms of partnership, said the officer.
 - i. It is necessary for APD to build relationships, in order to have mutual respect between citizens and officers.
 - ii. Partnerships with agencies help APD and citizens utilize all available resources.
 - iii. It’s hard to build and keep relationships when commanders are changing; it’s hard to see change when the representatives keep changing.
 - b. If the Chief has something important to say, he should say it in public, not on YouTube.

- i. People don't know how to use YouTube or want to take the time to watch.
 - ii. People don't know whether the Chief is talking—or the Mayor.
- c. It is important for DV victims to know that officers know and care about them.
 - i. Victim relationships are really important, especially for children.
 - ii. Often, victims have had negative things said about them; they need someone who will really sit and listen.
 - 1. APD: I understand the frustration that officers don't spend the time; sometimes, there is another call.
 - 2. There is frustration with lack of time and resources.
 - a. I experienced the frustration ion not being able to follow a case through to prosecution.
 - iii. When police show up, they have to do something that will benefit people, and done with respect.
 - 1. Creating personal safety
- d. A council member suggested making training tapes so people would know how to behave around cops
 - i. It staggered my imagination—making people responsible for how cops behave.
- e. If APD would build bridges to the service agencies, its effectiveness would be enhanced.
- f. As long as there is a belief that law enforcement is better than the community—us vs them—there will be a problem.
 - i. “You just don't understand; you're not a cop...” The Chief of Baltimore Police said that is a false dichotomy.

II. “What are your goals and expectations for Police / Community *interactions* in Albuquerque?” and Why are these goals and expectations important to you (what experiences, values, beliefs, feelings influence your goals)?

- a. The majority of DV victims say positive things about law enforcement, when officers take the time to talk with them.
 - i. Officers don't have to be experts to help victims.
 - ii. Officers have a duty to create a report that is meaningful, to spend the two extra minutes to talk confidentially about victim's needs.
 - iii. For a woman to pick up a phone and call for help is very difficult—especially when she may get arrested and charged.
- b. We don't want officers responding to DV calls to simply arrest women and get out of there, when the women appear to be the aggressors.
 - i. This puts women at risk, and then CYFD gets involved, with fewer and fewer kids being taken into custody.
 - 1. CYFD says here's the safety plan—take the kids here, take them there—it happens very quickly
 - ii. Lawyers are uncomfortable defending such a case, even when there is self-defense.
 - iii. These are women without resources and vulnerable—part-time job, multiple children, young and waiting tables; it becomes overwhelming for them.
- c. It's better for citizens to understand what the law is—to be aware of the subtleties and nuances of DV.

- i. The community should have access to knowledge of what DV entails—this is how we train and enforce; this is best practice.
- d. DV signs are very subtle. I appreciate an officer walking into that extremely dangerous situation—dangerous for the victim, dangerous for the officer.
- e. APD: I’ve seen a shift in police-police interactions—now officers are irritated by bad behavior of other officers.
 - i. It is offensive to those officers who want to keep a good relationship with the community.
 - ii. There is more accountability among each other.
 - iii. Years ago, I’d be called a whistleblower; it would have been dangerous for me.

III. “How do you think your goals can best be achieved?”

- a. Create a DV training collaborative, including agencies and all relevant law enforcement and public agencies.
 - i. Have a statewide training curriculum committee (officers, agencies, etc.) so everyone gets the same training, including how to become a trainer.
 - ii. We need a statewide mandate for funding and training.
- b. What helps is when officers are visible in the neighborhoods.
 - i. Ability to be responsive and take the time necessary.
- c. APD: To effect change, it starts with the immediate supervisor, telling field officers to take the time necessary to get the report properly.
 - i. Supervisors with community-based mentality.
 - ii. The report is important—it is what is going to make things change.
 - iii. There is variation among supervisors—supervisors whom people like and some they don’t like.
 - iv. Basically, it trickles down from the top.
- d. The community could impact the development of policy as the department shrinks and has fewer resources, even though community input is at times emotional.
 - i. What level and type of care does the community need?
 - ii. How is manpower allocated?
- e. Communication is needed—working with providers.
 - i. Too often, officers come in bringing papers—you go to these resources, etc.—rather than having a conversation.
 - ii. When detectives don’t call back, it sends a message of not caring.
 - iii. Officers are not using the resources available.
 - iv. Once families are supported, they are so much easier to work with.

IV. “What are your specific suggestions or ideas?”

- a. APD: Officers should take time to stop and talk with neighbors between calls, to build relationships
- b. Officers should get child advocate training.
- c. APD: For specialized unit training, rather than mandate, ask for volunteers—those who can be engaged and excited about their work; if they are not engaged, they don’t want to learn. We need officers who volunteer and are passionate.

- d. Create a Field Response Unit—specialized training for those officers so they can deal with those DV situations.
 - i. How to identify who is the aggressor.
 - i. There are a lot of people who tell me they are the victim.
 - 1. When I walk out of a situation, someone's not going to be happy.
 - ii. Social workers and victim advocates can come and say what needs to be included.
- e. Get interpreters for DV situations involving non-English speakers.
 - i. If you get Federal funds, then you must provide interpretation.
 - ii. Interpretation is important to refugees.
- b. Change the funding so potential recruits want to join APD, not go to Colorado or Texas.
 - i. If the Legislature doesn't understand why, we need to educate them.

Next Steps: *None identified*

Action Items and Deliverables: *None identified*