Lexington’s Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative:
1-Year Updates

July 2015
Lexington was selected as the replication site for High Point Police Department’s *Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative*, which is based on focused deterrence theory

- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office funded UNCG to evaluate both sites

Lexington had several existing advantages for replication in place prior to implementing the strategy

- Ongoing PSN/focused deterrence strategy in place since 2010
- Understanding of the dynamic of DV in relationships among officers and command staff; reinforced through training
- Strategies in place to deal with DV situations and investigations
- Strong commitment from the Chief and buy-in from other partners (i.e., District Attorney’s Office, probation, victim service providers)
A certain number of domestic violence offenders are known to law enforcement.

Focuses on changing offender behavior; a shift from traditional focus on the victim:
- Law enforcement “owns the problem of domestic violence”

Adaptation of an evidence-based approach to dealing with criminal behavior:
- Focused deterrence or “pulling levers”
  - Puts offenders on notice that their behavior will no longer be tolerated
  - Strips offenders’ anonymity
  - Provides certain, swift, and severe consequences for continued DV through any means or levers that exist
  - Offenders make a rational choice as to whether to continue violent behavior based on the information they receive

Takes advantage of all potential contacts with DV offenders even those at lower levels.
Why does focused deterrence work?
Offender Profile — Chronic Offenders

- **Lots of legal exposures or levers to pull**
  - 8 HPPD Assault Arrests
  - Simple to Assault on Female to Felony
  - Drug, Disorderly, Felony Property, Weapon violations
  - Gang Affiliations
  - Unsatisfactory termination 3/06, previous absconder
  - Currently Not Supervised
  - 2004 and 2006 Assault on Females dismissed by DA
  - In prison 10/03 for 4 Felony B&E/Larceny and one Misdemeanor AISI, Out 2/04
  - 12/06 Assault on Female pending Court

Source: Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department
Power and Control

- Control over her behavior, activities, & whereabouts
- Jealousy
- Victim blaming/denial of own accountability
- Monitoring and surveillance
- Negating her needs (notice that her “rules” are marked through)
### Criteria For Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D List</th>
<th>C List</th>
<th>B List</th>
<th>A List</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No previous charges for DV</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; charge for DV related offense</td>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; charge of DV related offense or Violation of prohibited behavior for which offender received notice as C list offender (violating pretrial conditions, contacting victim, etc.)</td>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; or more DV charges or Offender has violent record including DV or Violation of 50B protective order or Used weapon in DV or Convicted felon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responding officer can identify an aggressor but no arrest can be made</td>
<td>Officer believes the potential exists for violence</td>
<td>Validation intimate partner relationship</td>
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<td>LPD has not yet started B-list notifications</td>
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### Types of Notifications

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<th>D List</th>
<th>C List</th>
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<tr>
<td>Receives letter from Police putting him on official notice and their name is added to the watch list</td>
<td>Face-to-face deterrent message from Violent Crime Detective</td>
<td>Law enforcement and community message face-to-face</td>
<td>At time of arrest or indictment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivered by a trained patrol officer during a follow up visit within 48 hours of the call</td>
<td>Often while offender is still in jail and just before going before judge for bond hearing</td>
<td>Offenders called to a notification perhaps quarterly or more frequent</td>
<td></td>
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Graphic Source: Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department
Processes
Example of an offender arrested for assault on female

Monitoring jail calls
- Contempt of court for every jail call made to victim violating court order of no-contact; offender has to serve 5 days for every jail call X 15 calls before facing his assault charge

Probation levers
- Offender on probation for a previous assault so probation arrested him for violation and offender has to serve 80 days prior to facing his assault charge

Prosecutorial scrutiny
- After viewing assault on store surveillance footage, district attorney indicted offender for kidnapping in addition to the assault charge

Certain, predictable consequences through partner buy-in
- Nearly every guilty defendant gets 18 months of supervised probation which includes abuser treatment program and conditions not to threaten, harass, or assault the victim + any other conditions such as Alco-Sensor monitoring
Team Problem Solving Approach

Problem Identification

Identification of gaps
Specific victim/offender needs
System adaptations
Innovative solutions

Information Input

Agency updates/new information
Report back to team on outcomes of follow through
Ongoing and improved communication among partners

Action Planning

Innovative solutions

Follow-Through

Courts
Magistrate
DSS/CPS
DA
Probation
LPD
Victim/Offender
FSOP
UNCG
REMEMBER:
Some of the strategy’s greatest success will not be quantified in the data!!!!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total #</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Average Age</th>
<th>DV History</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C List</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>79% male</td>
<td>34 years</td>
<td>79% had <em>only the one DV</em> arrest for which they were C-notified; 21% had at least one DV arrest prior to their C-level arrest with some having as many as 4 prior DV arrests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D List</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>77% male</td>
<td>34.8 years</td>
<td>83% had no prior DV arrests; 17% had at least one prior DV arrest</td>
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Recidivism Rates for Notified Offenders in High Point & Lexington

- **B-List:** 0% (HP: 6-months), 19% (HP: 1 year), 14% (LPD: Jul 2014-May 2015)
- **C-List:** 11% (HP: 6-months), 15% (HP: 1 year), 14% (LPD: Jul 2014-May 2015)
- **D-List:** 12% (HP: 6-months), 16% (HP: 1 year), 14% (LPD: Jul 2014-May 2015)

**Is offender behavior changing?**
“Typically, the rate of re-offense by perpetrators of domestic violence is 30 to 40%, irrespective of the type of intervention used...”

“...38.4 percent of abusers were arrested for a new domestic violence offense within two years...”

“Studies have suggested that recidivism rates in domestic violence cases are high...estimating 40%-80% or more of repeat violence (Garner, Fagan, & Maxwell, 1995; Shepard, 1992).”

“Depending on how reabuse is measured, over what period of time...a hard core of approximately 1/3 of abusers will reabuse in the short run, and more will reabuse in the long run.”
• ~60% who reoffend, do so within 6 months.
The percentage of victim injuries in arrest incidents in Lexington since the strategy has begun are below the national rate.

Nationally, 48.1% of DV incidents result in victim injury (NCVS).

Percentage of Arrests Resulting in Victim Injury

- Aug 2014: 37.0%
- Sep 2014: 35.7%
- Oct 2014: 36.4%
- Nov 2014: 35.7%
- Dec 2014: 31.8%
- Jan 2015: 33.3%
- Feb 2015: 44.0%
- Mar 2015: 40.0%
- Apr 2015: 21.1%
- May 2015: 30.0%
There has been variation in the numbers of arrests and calls for service over the course of the strategy.

Monthly Tracking of DV Arrests and IP DV CFS

Reductions in CFS and arrests are expected over time. When the strategy is new, we may expect calls and arrests to actually increase before they decrease.

HP has seen a 13% decrease in arrests & projected 41% decrease over next 2 years

HP has seen a 20% decrease in CFS & projected 37% decrease over next 2 years
Team Problem Solving Approach

Problem Identification
- Identification of gaps
- Specific victim/offender needs
- System adaptations

Information Input
- Agency updates/new information
- Report back to team on outcomes of follow through

Action Planning
- Innovative solutions

Follow-Through
- Ongoing and improved communication among partners
Thank you to all of the partners who have collaborated to make this initiative a success in Lexington!!!!

Next meeting will be August 5 at 2pm at the Lexington Police Department

We hope to see you all there!
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North Carolina Network for Safe Communities