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THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
GREENSBORO

Replicating the Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative: Use of the Focused Deterrence Policing Strategy to Combat Domestic Violence

Chief Tad Kepley, Capt. Robby Rummage, Lt. Melissa Carter, *Lexington (NC) Police Department*
Stacy Sechrist & John Weil, *North Carolina Network for Safe Communities*

3rd Innovations in Domestic and Sexual Violence Research and Practice Conference, Greensboro, NC
March 5, 2015

Overview

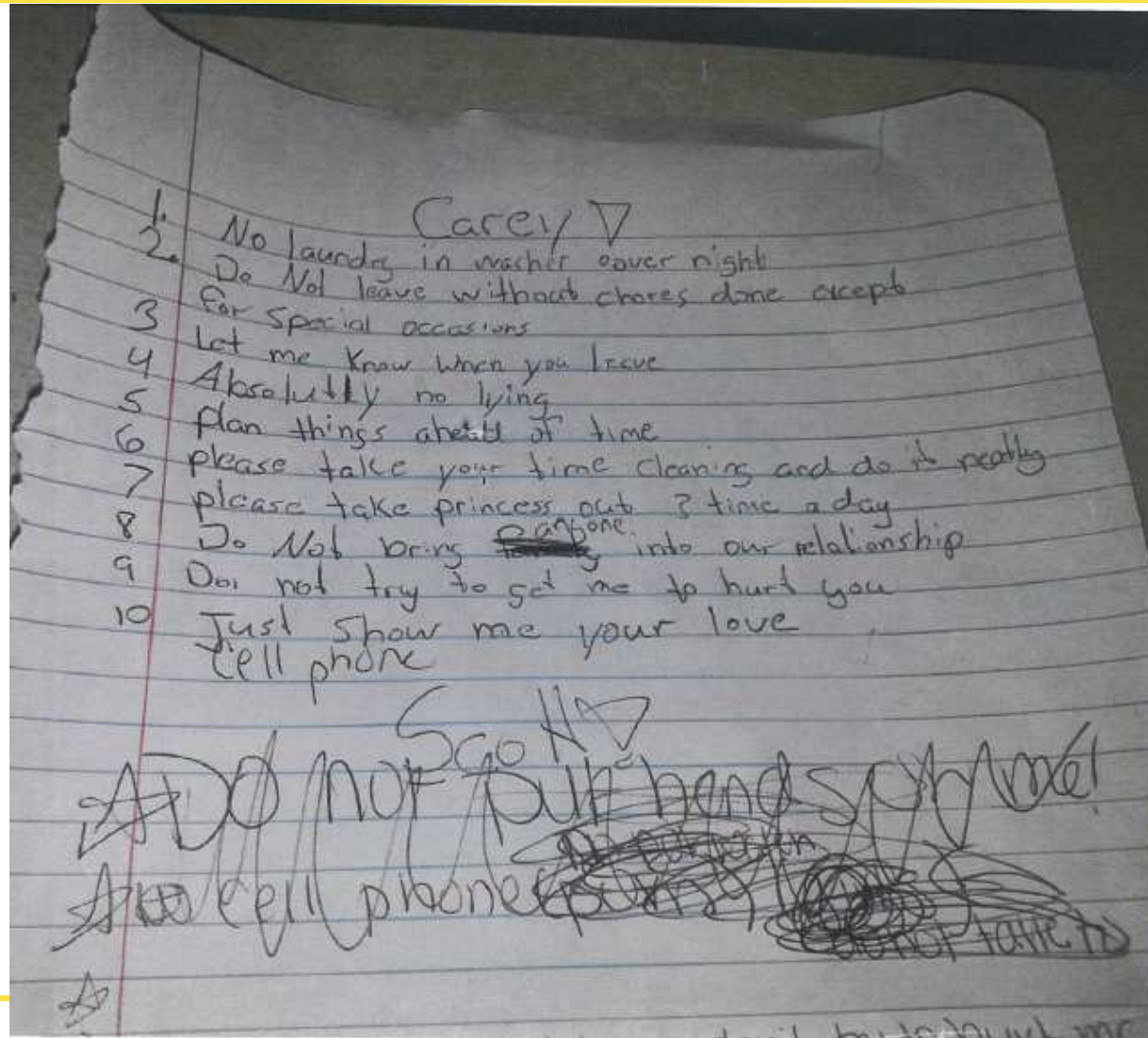


Chief Tad Kepley, *Lexington Police Department*

Advantages LPD had for Replication

- ∞ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office funded UNCG to evaluate High Point Police Department's *Offender Focused Domestic Violence Initiative* with Lexington, NC as the replication site
- ∞ LPD had several existing advantages for replication in place prior to implementing the strategy
 - 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

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)

Operations



Captain Robby Rummage, *Lexington Police Department*

Criteria For Levels

(Commit prohibited behavior or new charge moves up a level)



D List	C List	B List	A List
<p>No previous charges for DV</p> <p>Responding officer can identify an aggressor but no arrest can be made</p> <p>Officer believes the potential exists for violence</p> <p>Validated intimate partner relationship</p>	<p>1st charge for DV related offense</p>	<p>2nd charge of DV related offense</p> <p>or</p> <p>Violation of prohibited behavior for which offender received notice as C list offender (violating pretrial conditions, contacting victim, etc.)</p>	<p>3rd or more DV charges</p> <p>Offender has violent record including DV</p> <p>Violation of 50B protective order</p> <p>Used weapon in DV</p> <p>Convicted felon</p>

LPD has not yet begun B-list notifications

Types of Notification

D List	C List	B List	A List
<p>Receives letter from Police putting him on official notice and their name is added to the watch list</p> <p>Delivered by a trained patrol officer during a follow up visit within 48 hours of the call</p>	<p>Face-to-face deterrent message from Violent Crime Detective</p> <p>Often while offender is still in jail and just before going before judge for bond hearing</p>	<p>Law enforcement and community message face-to-face</p> <p>Offenders called to a notification perhaps quarterly or more frequent</p>	<p>At time of arrest or indictment</p>

Graphic Source: Chief Marty Sumner, High Point Police Department

Impact

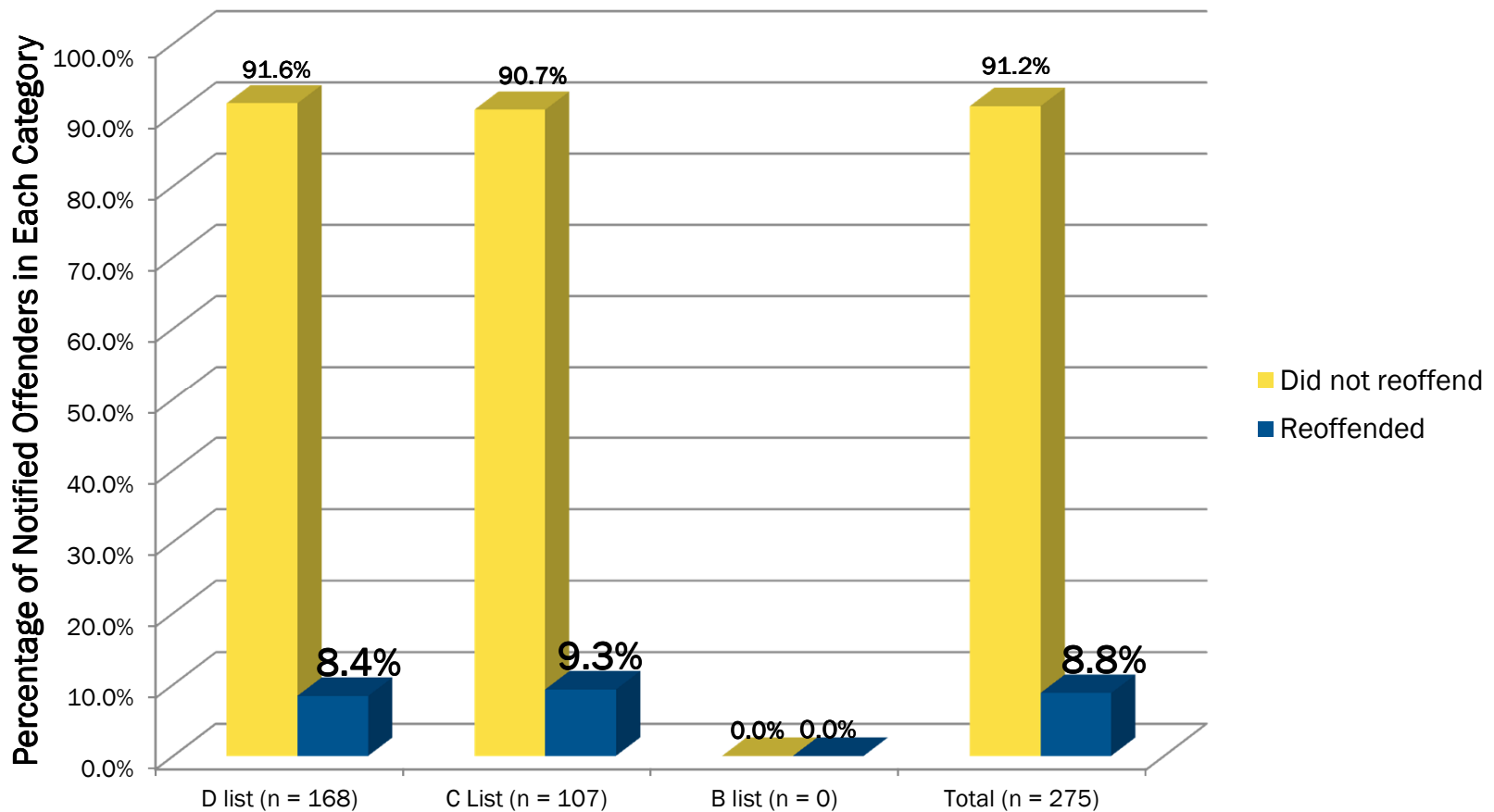


Dr. Stacy Sechrist, NC Network for Safe Communities, UNCG

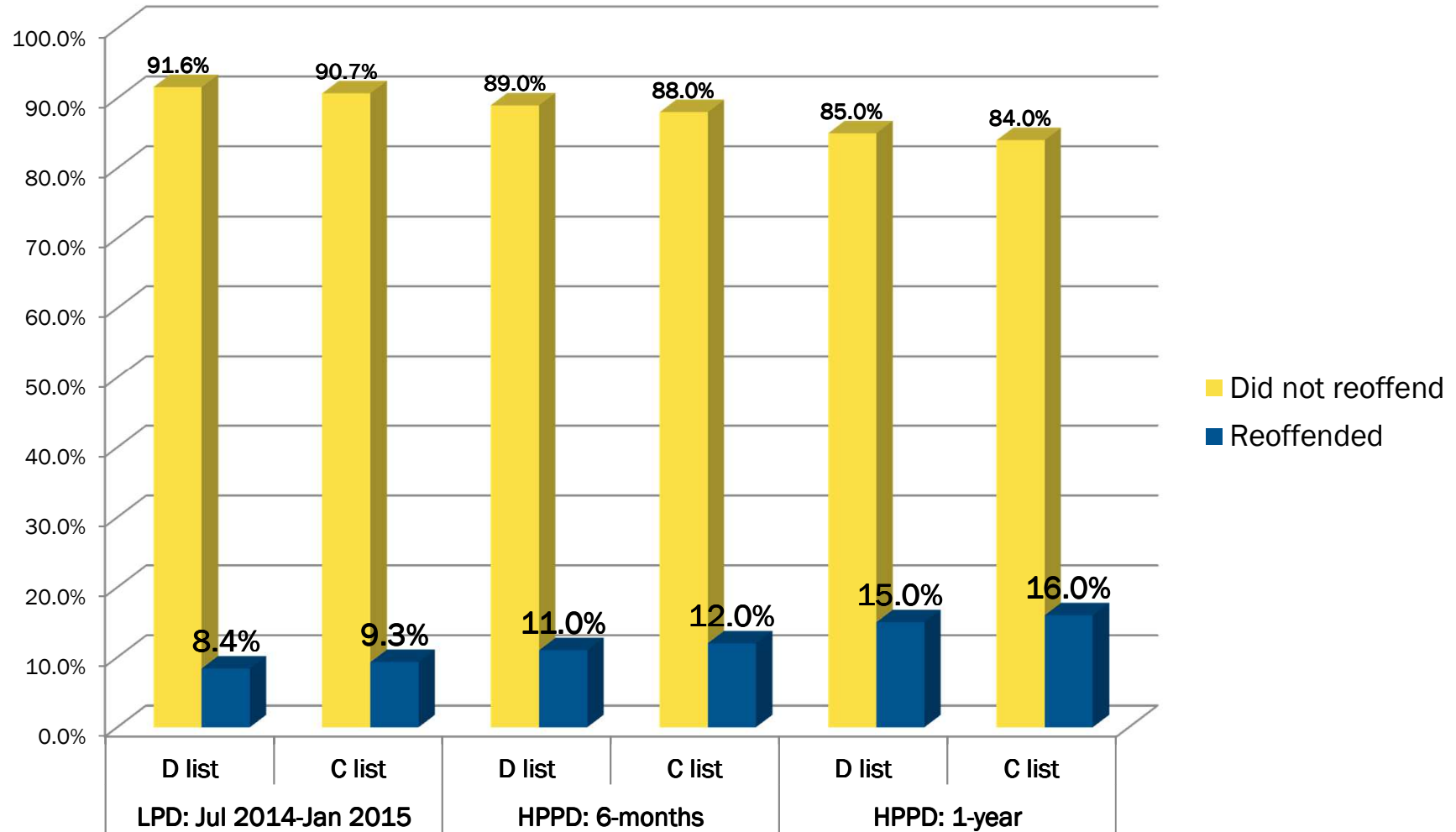
Is offender behavior changing?

(based on new arrest for IP DV)

Notified Offender Recidivism Rates since July 2014:
Lexington, NC



Recidivism Rate Comparison Across Sites for Notified Offenders



Review of Offender Based Treatment & Other Approaches

Thomas P. George, Ph.D.

Washington State Center for Court Research

Administrative Office of the Courts

Olympia, WA

2012 study

	<u>Any Domestic Violence Offense:</u>		
	Misd	Felony	Misd or Felony
Study Group:	%	%	%
Fines/proscriptions only:	24	4	26
Treatment:			
Anger management:	19	2	21
Domestic violence	28	5	29
Victim-oriented	10	3	12
Probation:	13	2	14
Jail:	51	17	55
Any treatment & probation:	17	3	18
Any treatment & jail:	43	11	47
Jail & probation:	39	11	42
Jail, probation, and any treatment:	36	11	10
All study groups: (n = 14,113)	44	14	47
All sentenced DV offenders: (n = 27,218)	41	12	45

Is it possible that by simply notifying offenders that law enforcement knows who they are and is taking DV seriously that DV offenders can make a rational decision to stop?

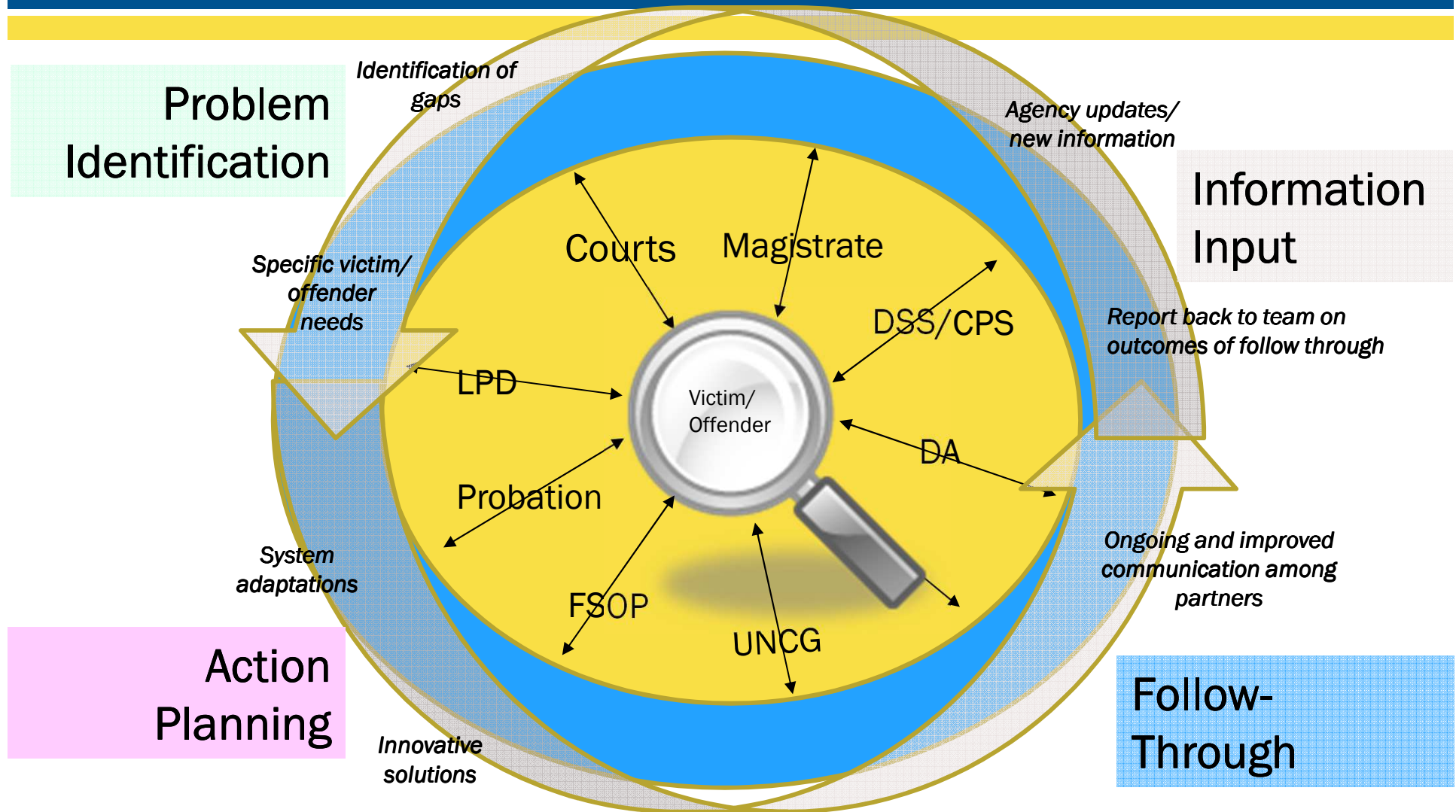
~8-16% of offenders notified through the OFDVI strategy have reoffended with a DV arrest... without additional costs associated with more traditional offender treatment options

Processes



John Weil, *NC Network for Safe Communities, UNCG*

OFDVI Team Problem Solving Approach



Real World Example of Problem Solving Approach in Action

Problem Identification

Offender had been physically and emotionally abusive to victim in the past, but no prior charges or arrests for DV (only traffic).
Victim takes out private warrant for AOF.

Jail (DCSO) personnel forwards 1st appearance list to LPD Lt. every morning; LPD becomes aware of this case NOT as a result of a call for service, and LPD intervenes.

LPD obtains information from family, neighbors, & personnel from other agencies about offender: He imposed "the rules", obtained a gun permit and purchased a gun

Action Planning

Offender given a secure bond & no contact order.

Offender found GUILTY; sentenced to 18 months supervised probation & ordered to participate in abuser treatment program

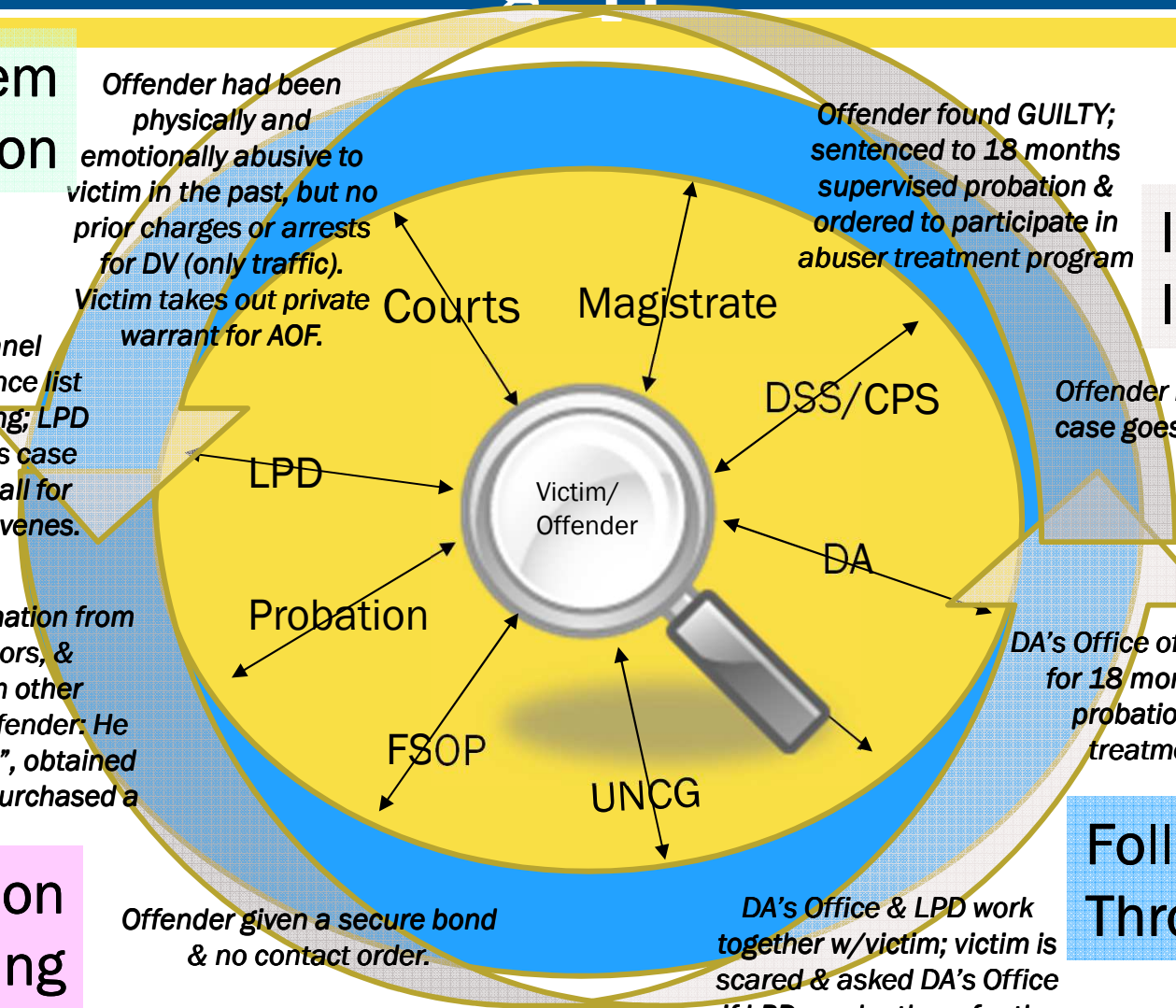
Information Input

Offender refuses plea, and case goes to trial.

DA's Office offers offender plea for 18 months supervised probation and abuser treatment program

Follow-Through

DA's Office & LPD work together w/victim; victim is scared & asked DA's Office if LPD can be there for the trial.



Contact Information

Chief Tad Kepley & Capt. Robby Rummage

twkepley@lexingtonnc.gov

rdrummage@lexingtonnc.gov

Lt. Melissa Carter

mpcarter@lexingtonnc.gov

Lexington Police Department

Dr. Stacy Sechrist & John Weil

smsechri@uncg.edu

jdweil@uncg.edu

North Carolina Network for Safe Communities

Website: ncnsc.uncg.edu

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