Domestic Violence Workshop for
Rochester City Interagency
Domestic Violence Program Task Force
(Memorandum Report)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REPORT

Bureau of Justice Assistance
CRIMINAL COURTS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
A Joint Program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, and
American University School of Public Affairs
Criminal Courts Technical Assistance Project Report No. 98-003

Domestic Violence Workshop for
Rochester City Interagency
Domestic Violence Program Task Force
(Memorandum Report)

June 22, 1998

Consultant

Sharon Denaro, Esq.
CCTAP Technical Assistance Report No. 98-003

Domestic Violence Workshop for Rochester City Interagency Domestic Violence Program Task Force (Memorandum Report)

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Consultant

Sharon Denaro, Esq.
To: Judge John Schwartz  
Lynn Levey

From: Sharon Denaro

Re: Multi-Agency Intake Center Summary  
Domestic Violence Seminar / June 22, 1998

The Domestic Violence Consortium members met on June 22, 1998 to hear a presentation given by Sharon Denaro, Esq, an expert in the development of domestic violence courts. The talk stressed a systemic approach to the problem of domestic violence in communities. Key to this systemic approach were inter-agency collaboration, integrated case processing, and a multi-agency intake center.

The first half of the presentation was devoted to an overview. During the second half of the session, Ms. Denaro divided the group into two parts. Ms Levey was directed to work with one group while Ms Denaro worked with the other.

The entire group was told to disregard budgetary issues, staffing, schedules, past history, and turf considerations. Instead each group was asked to develop a blueprint for a multi-agency intake center which would provide a “one stop shopping” point of entry for victims entering the system. The two groups were asked to consider the function of such a center as well as possible structure and operation. All group members were asked to identify the three most important ideas presented during their session. Through this process, the collective thoughts were ranked from most to least important in each category.

When the exercise was complete, each group had an opportunity to present their best idea. Finally, Ms Denaro, asked the members what their agency could contribute to the project.

All the suggestions from each group are listed below. The ideas are listed in order of importance as ranked by each group.
Group One: Judge Schwartz, reporter.

The Function of the Intake Center:

1. Insure victim safety [including safety planning]
2. Provide a criminal background check for both the alleged perpetrator and victim
3. Permit the victim to tell her[his] story to one person
4. Provide crisis intervention to victim and children
5. Utilize a case manager for every case
6. Assign every victim one primary advocate who will stay with the victim throughout the process. This includes attending all hearings [family and criminal] with the victim
7. Intake should address all needs of victim in comprehensive coordinated fashion
8. Links with probation and treatment providers
9. Coordination of victim and batterer’s assessment information
10. Prosecutor’s review at the time of intake
11. Provide method for batterer to obtain treatment immediately after arrest prior to disposition
12. Uniform information systems which link criminal and family cases
13. Provide Family Court Intake at the same time
14. Provide documentation of injuries and gather other evidence

The Structure of the Intake Center

1. All affected agencies are represented and co-located
2. 24-hour operation
3. Central and safe location
4. All related criminal and family cases between the parties should be coordinated from this central intake center
5. Design should anticipate that victims will go back to same center for subsequent needs, cases etc.
6. All related cases will be identified and prior case histories between the parties identified and documented.
Group Two: Judge Phiffer, reporter

The Function of the Intake Center

1. Intake assessment should address all victim needs in a comprehensive fashion including: legal services, housing, arrest issues, an order of protection, custody, paternity and other related case issues.
2. Provide supportive counseling
3. Liaison with judges to obtain an order of protection
4. Access to information regarding perpetrator status, i.e. perpetrator’s location and whether the perpetrator is in jail
5. Utilize a multi-purpose intake form
6. Referral to medical staff or on site practitioner
7. Transportation to shelter
8. Access to housing options [including locks changed, or new location]
9. Provide family court order for perpetrators who are not arrested as well as coordination on other related cases.

The Structure of the Intake Center

1. 24-Hour operation
2. Therapeutic playroom on site
3. Near the Hall of Justice
4. Triage and paralegal assistance
5. Should provide privacy for victim and children
6. Uniform information center
7. All affected agencies represented, including shelter representatives
8. Key agency members set policy for the center through a governing board, daily operations given to one agency
9. Central data collection of all intake information given to case manager who manages all related cases
10. Male victim intake component, possibly at a separate site
11. Staff should include a director, triage team and case manager and have links to child protective worker
Entire Group – Agency Contribution

Prosecution: Victim Advocate and Paralegal trained to cross-file both family and criminal cases

Police: Victim assistance counselor

Public Defender: Pretrial batterer’s advocate and defense counsel in family cases [conflict cases to be appointed to private defense bar]

Shelter: Confidential victim advocate assigned to each case

Corrections: Victim notification [use of VINE system]

AOC: Data processing responsibility to enter all related case data

Clerk: Identify all related cases

Medical: Develop good treatment models for alternative methods of incarceration

Non-Government/Non-Profit Providers to provide adult and child specialist
Sharon Denaro, Esq.
Rochester, NY
Agenda: June 22 Meeting

• **Morning**

  8:30- 9:00  Introduction of Speaker and Agency Members
  9:00- 9:45  Overview of Domestic Violence System
  9:45- 10:00 Break
  10:00-11:30 Critical Components of Domestic Violence Systems
  11:30-11:45 Break
  11:45-12:30 Recommendations

  12:30- 2:00  Lunch

• **Afternoon**

  2:00-4:00  Individual Agency Meetings
Mary Bergevin  
Family Court  
3d Floor, Hall of Justice  
Rochester, NY 14614

Daria Bour  
Family Court/Probation  
2d Floor Hall of Justice  
Rochester NY 14614

Vince Butler, MEN'S Workshop  
Genesee Hospital  
224 Alexander Street  
Rochester NY 14607

Lisa Butt  
SPCC  
148 S. Fitzhugh Street  
Rochester NY 14608

June Castellano  
GULP  
80 St. Paul Street Suite 600  
Rochester, NY 14604

Lori Hirtelen  
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Sue Laragy  
V.L.S.P  
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80 W. Main St. Suite 200  
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114 University Ave  
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65 W. Broad St. Suite 400  
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Ronald Pawelczak  
Family Court Rm 350  
Hall of Justice  
Rochester NY 14614

Hon. Ann Pfeiffer  
Rochester City Court  
99 Exchange St.  
Rochester NY 14614

Lt. Chris Piro  
RPD 4th Floor  
150 S. Plymouth Ave  
Rochester NY 14614

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65 W. Broad St. Suite 400  
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Box 39601  
Rochester NY 14604

Nancy Nealon  
ABW Box #39601  
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Mike Thomas  
Probation Dept. Rm. 301A  
Hall of Justice  
Rochester NY 14614

Carey Travis  
Family Court  
Hall of Justice 3d Floor  
Rochester NY 14614

Eva Salinas  
Greece Police Dept.  
400 Island Cottage Road  
Rochester NY 14612

Ronnie Caccia  
Greece Police Dept.  
400 Island Cottage Road  
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Laura Swartzenberg  
Gates Police Dept.  
1605 Buffalo Road  
Rochester NY 14624

Rosa Camacho  
Office of the District Attorney  
Watts Building  
Rochester NY 14614

Christine Zimmerman  
Volunteers of America  
175 Ward Street  
Rochester NY 14605

Ann Maloney  
NYS DSS  
259 Monroe Ave  
Rochester NY 14607

Pete Navratil  
Delphi  
55 East Main Street  
Webster NY 14580

Arthur Mason  
Lifespan  
79 N. Clinton Ave  
Rochester NY 14604
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June 30, 1998

Joseph A. Trotter, Jr., Director
Justice Programs Office
American University
4400 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016-8159

RE: Proposed Rochester City Domestic Violence Court

Dear Joe:

Through a Technical Assistance Grant provided by the Justice Programs Office, Sharon Denaro, conducted a one-day seminar on June 22, 1998, for the Rochester/Monroe Domestic Violence Consortium. For your review, enclosed is a copy of her report, made for me following the presentation.

The seminar was well attended and Ms. Denaro did an excellent job. The feedback I have received so far has been excellent.

While a Domestic Violence Criminal Part for the Rochester City Court is still in the planning stage, this seminar did a lot to bring people together and get them thinking on the right track.

Once again, I thank you and the American University for all you have done for the Rochester City Court. I will keep you advised as to how we are doing and look forward to our continued working relationship with American University and you.

Very truly yours,

John R. Schwartz

JRS:gg
Enc.

cc: Hon. L. Paul Kehoe
Administrative Judge, Seventh Judicial District