Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) Recommendations

Presented by

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National Prevalence of IPV

About 41% of women and 26% of men reported an IPV-related impact during their lifetime.
Domestic Violence & Mass Shootings

- **Total**: 59.1% of mass shootings that were DV-related between 2013-2019.
- **Victim & History**: 68.2% of mass shootings where one partner or family member was killed, or the perpetrator had a history of DV.
- **Victim Fatality**: 83.7% of fatality rate associated with DV-related mass shootings.
- **Perpetrator Fatality**: 70.9% of perpetrators that died during the shootings.

(Geller et al., 2021)
Buncombe County LAP Calls & Danger Assessments

- Number of LAP calls received
- Number of Danger Assessments administered
Domestic Violence and Child Protective Services in Buncombe County

- # of Intakes: 761 (2020), 835 (2021), 916 (2022)
- # of DV Maltreatment Cases: 158 (2020), 167 (2021), 131 (2022)
- # of Petitions: 64 (2020), 59 (2021), 40 (2022)
2018 Study of Annual Costs of DV in Buncombe County

- Estimated Annual Number of Domestic Violence Victimizations: **4,149**
- Total Annual Cost of Domestic Violence: **$13,533,986**
Some incidents involve one homicide while others involve multiple homicides.
The mission of the Buncombe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) is to prevent domestic violence (DV) deaths, increase safety for DV victims, and increase accountability for abusers through systems change.

Some DVFRT activities include:

• Studying incidents and causes of death due to DV through a multidisciplinary intensive 2-day review
• Presenting annually to the Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence Leadership Team and Buncombe County Commissioners
• Identifying gaps and making system recommendations
• Issuing a report to the Buncombe County Commissioners, Governor’s Crime Commission and NC Domestic Violence Commission every three years
• Abide by the laws, rules, and policies relating to confidentiality.

(DVFRTs are defined by the NC General Assembly in Session Laws 2009-52 and 2013-70)
2022 DVFRT Review Timeline

February 2022
1st ever BC DVFRT review findings and recommendations presented to BOC

March – April 2022
Records from all case involved partners gathered and distributed for review

May 2022
2-Day Facilitated Intensive Review held

June – September 2022
Report finalized with findings and recommendations
Multifaceted life stress, multi-generational, historical, and community trauma
Legally obtained firearm was the murder weapon used by the perpetrator during the attack
Financial insecurity and lack of access to transportation were used to maintain coercive control
The opportunity to intervene was limited by a short escalation window
There were few intersections with conventional system supports
The lack of record sharing between jurisdictions, i.e., states, makes it difficult to identify history of violence or other historical indicators of domestic violence
The statute allows limited and specified participation on the review panel and currently does not intentionally prioritize diversity or individuals with lived experiences
Recommendation #1
Community Connection/Prevention

• Expand funding and support for prevention services in our schools (e.g., healthy relationship education)

• Continue to support organizations focused on Social Determinants of Health that provide tangible support to families

• Strengthen educational/career development opportunities to provide hope and pathways out of generational poverty

• Treat people who have lived experience or established community trust as the experts and give them the resources needed to impact change
Recommendation #2  
Legislation/Advocacy

- Expand established strategic priorities like Educated and Capable Communities and Vibrant Economy
- Require purchase permits for all firearms
- Advocate for amendment of automatic expunctions to not include DV-related charges
- Advocate to revisit the adoption of House Bill 525, as well as any other legislation that limits access to firearms of violent DV offenders
- Create an accountability workgroup to follow up on how recommendations are implemented in legislation at local and state levels
Recommendation #3
Equity & Inclusion

• Be intentional to include DVFRT members with representation from diverse backgrounds and with different lived experience

• Increase the number of at-large members for NC DVFRTs
Recommendation #4
Cross System Opportunities

• Remove barriers to accessing and navigating court systems and resources, including peer support navigator, social work access on site, and funding for community organizations that provide services

• Review and improve screening protocols at provider agencies so that the discloser feels safe

• Create a Domestic Violence-Specific Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) to include Pisgah Legal Services, DA’s Office, Helpmate, Law Enforcement, Pretrial, SPARC, VA, and Probation
Sources

