

Domestic Violence Outcome Measures Project

Additional Related Recommendations

Developed by the Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network in partnership with the Domestic Violence Providers who participated in the DVOM Project

At the close of the first data set, the 15 participating agencies were invited to review the research and provide recommendations, many of which are encompassed in the Executive Summary and supported by the research findings.

After reviewing the research, participating agencies also developed the following related recommendations that, while not addressed through the scope of this research, are critical to: 1) retain qualified, committed, and knowledgeable staff necessary for quality programming through adequate compensation and ample training opportunities; 2) reduce the number of victims needing intervention services altogether by engaging in effective prevention programming; and 3) reflect the “lived experience” of a victim of domestic violence and the need for programming and/or staff to aid in the navigation of multiple siloed systems.

Quality Recruitment and Retention of Agency Staff: Effective services work best when programs are adequately staffed by committed and knowledgeable individuals. Stagnant compensation, reduced training budgets, and funding instability lead to frequent turnover and redundant orientation to the work.

Recommendations:

- *Support increased salaries of agency staff as current salaries are not competitive;*
- *Fund professional development for agency staff to ensure integration of best practices.*

Prevention: The data shows victims of domestic violence need core services to address immediate safety needs, and they also need additional services to sustain safety. Yet by supporting and offering quality, evidence-based prevention work, we have the opportunity to reduce the number of victims needing intervention services altogether.

Recommendations:

- *Fund models wherein survivors and youth help lead the way in prevention programming as well as need identification for services;*
- *Fund prevention and advocacy work in child welfare, schools, hospitals, law enforcement, criminal justice/family court system, and other institutions. Partner with service providers to develop outcome measures for such work;*
- *Increase support to community organizations already providing or looking to provide prevention education.*

System Navigation: The lived experience of a survivor includes contact with multiple siloed systems and/or systems not prepared to meet their needs: child welfare, schools, hospitals, law enforcement, criminal justice/ family court system, and other institutions. Victims need advocates to help target access to meaningful services and systems that are coordinated and specialized in their response.

Recommendations:

- *Support the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline in its work to streamline the process for obtaining services for victims as well as advocate for services for victims across multiple systems;*
- *Support cross-sector collaborations with organizations targeting public benefit programs, court systems, DCFS, counseling and substance abuse programs, housing, financial health and wellbeing, and workforce development;*
- *Fund education of system players: domestic violence training for those who make legal decisions (judges, attorneys, DCFS, Guardian Ad Litem, etc.).*
- *Fund specialized work for survivors with specific needs: culturally sensitive services as well as greater language access in legal, medical/health services and DV agencies and social service programs.*