

## The Kansas City blueprint for safety

Through a continuation of funding from the Office of Violence against Women, Kansas City has a unique opportunity to build upon our previous work on the Community Safety Assessment and adapt the Blueprint for Safety as a comprehensive approach to domestic violence in our city.

### **WHAT IS THE BLUEPRINT FOR SAFETY?**

This is an exciting opportunity for Kansas City. Not only will it help us address domestic violence in a more effective and comprehensive way, but it sets Kansas City out as a national leader in domestic violence response.

The Blueprint for Safety is a framework for **preventing deaths and reducing the harm** caused by battering. The Blueprint coordinates agency responses across the criminal legal system and outlines each practitioner's role and responsibilities. This unified, strategic response to domestic violence is designed to increase safety for victims and ensure justice. The Blueprint award will build on Kansas City's domestic violence coordinated community response effort known as the Community Safety Assessment.

The Blueprint addresses the criminal justice response from 911 through post-conviction practices, ensuring each agency **is on the same page**. Instead of isolated policies and a fragmented response, interveners build upon and share essential information about risk and danger.

### **WHO IS INVOLVED AND WHAT IS THE COMMITMENT FROM EACH AGENCY?**

The Blueprint encompasses the **entire criminal justice system from 911 through post-conviction**; thus, each agency in the criminal justice system is involved in adapting the Blueprint to work in Kansas City. Agencies will be asked to sign an MOU or an addendum to the MOU that already exists formalizing their commitment to adopt the best practice standards outlined in the Blueprint to the extent and in the manner possible in Kansas City.

Each agency will be asked to commit a staff person to be a member of the Blueprint adaptation team. This should be a person with knowledge of how the agency handles domestic violence cases on a day-to-day basis and who also has access to key decision-makers to suggest changes in policy and procedure. The team member will attend regular meetings (likely 1-2 meetings per month) and participate in information-gathering activities, such as interviews and ride alongs, between meetings.

## THE BLUEPRINT'S IMPACT ON PRACTICE

### 911 CALL

At 911 we're getting more information. We're engaging with callers in a different way and paying more attention to, and documenting, what patrol and prosecutors need.

### PATROL

Patrol has a really unique role: we see first hand what has happened. Under the Blueprint, we more accurately capture and communicate the nature and severity of the violence.

### ARREST

Many times, both parties use violence. If self-defense was not used, then who is the predominant aggressor? Stopping this violence means getting control of the right person; knowing the history and context makes sure we get it right.

### INVESTIGATIONS

The impact of all members of the system working together is greater than any one single agency doing it alone. We're devising better methods, protocols, and procedures, and we're having a positive impact.

## THE BLUEPRINT'S IMPACT ON PRACTICE - it continues...

The impact continues all the way through probation.

JAIL } PROSECUTION } CHARGING } BAIL/EVALUATION } ARRAIGNMENT HEARING } PRE-TRIAL HEARING } JUDGE } MONITORING/PROBATION

## ROSE BROOKS CENTER'S ROLE

Rose Brooks Center via the City of Kansas City, Missouri was selected as one of 5 grantees to receive a 36-month award. The project will be a collaborative effort of multiple criminal justice agencies including the Kansas City Missouri Police Department, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Kansas City Municipal Prosecutor's Office, Kansas City Municipal Court Administration, Jackson County Court Administration, and the Jackson County Department of Corrections. A Blueprint Coordinator housed within Rose Brooks Center will organize the efforts of the team.



Rose Brooks CEO Susan Miller: *"Over the last 5 years, Rose Brooks has partnered with many local criminal justice agencies on the Community Safety Assessment to increase victim safety and offender accountability. We are thrilled to take our efforts to the next level by bringing the Blueprint for Safety to Kansas City, and are encouraged by the enthusiasm demonstrated by our community partners for this next step. Implementation of the Blueprint will distinguish Kansas City as a leader and innovator in domestic violence response."*

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