

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PRETRIAL RISK ASSESSMENTS: ISSUES, IDEAS, AND NEXT STEPS

National Center for Victims of Crime and
the Center for Court Innovation

October 3, 2019 – Houston Network Meeting



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



Who are NCVC and CCI?

- NCVC helps state, local, and grassroots organizations better provide for victim needs and advocate for their rights. We are a training and technical assistance provider.
- CCI helps to create a more effective and human justice system. We operate programs to test new ideas and solve problems, perform original research to determine what works (and what doesn't), and provide expert assistance to justice reformers around the world.

Panelists

- Jessica Ireland -- Mecklenburg County, NC
- Tiffany Iheanacho -- Buncombe County, NC
- Domingo Corona -- Pima County, AZ
- Judge Tim Kuhlman -- Lucas County, OH
- Holly Matthews -- Lucas County, OH
- Shawn LaGrega -- Cumberland County, ME

What do we know?

- Pretrial risk assessments neither effectively account for the dynamics of domestic violence cases nor incorporate victims' voices
- St. Louis DV Case Study – when an effective assessment is not in place, the default is to not release DV offenders, which may not be best for both victims and offenders
- Op-ed on bail reform in DV cases

Pretrial Risk Assessments Currently Being Used

- **Mecklenburg County, NC** – Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP)
- **Buncombe County, NC** – Virginia Pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (VPRAI) (currently implementing PSA), Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA), and LAP
- **Pima County, AZ** – PSA and APRAIS Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Tool
- **Lucas County, OH** – PSA and Dr. Campbell Danger Assessment Law Enforcement Tool (DA-LE)
- **Cumberland County, ME** – VPRAI and ODARA

What's the problem?

- Both pretrial staff and judges do not always receive LAP, ODARA, and/or other DV-specific assessment information, often resulting in low risk assessment scores, inaccurate pretrial release decisions, and improper supervision
- Pretrial services case managers lack access to information that could be provided by DV victims, which could result in both lethality and pretrial risk assessments being completed fully and accurately
- Appropriate release conditions are needed to ensure victim and community safety from truly high-risk DV offenders

Please contact us at
sjchallenge@victimsofcrime.org with questions
or technical assistance requests.



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