

The Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes

The Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC) is an advisory commission created by Dane County Ordinance. The Commission serves as a forum to discuss issues relating to sensitive crimes in Dane County, including, but not limited to, sexual assault, domestic/family violence, the abuse/exploitation of children, elder abuse, and sensitive crimes committed against people with disabilities, with particular attention to the impact on and issues affecting members of traditionally underserved communities. The COSC also serves as a forum for the county's four Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams, which perform the majority of work related to discussing sensitive crimes issues in Dane County.

Commission Responsibilities

The COSC is charged with the following duties:

1. Serve as a forum for the coordination of services related to sensitive crimes
2. Assist Dane County in developing and coordinating policies relating to the prevention, treatment, investigation, and prosecution of sensitive crimes
3. Maintain resources for the collection and dissemination of information relating to sensitive crimes
4. Respond to issues identified by Dane County, including conducting studies and making recommendations
5. Propose and analyze legislation and administrative procedures relating to sensitive crimes
6. Recommend procedures to gather, analyze, and present statistical data concerning the incidence of sensitive crimes in Dane County.
7. The commission shall report at least annually to the Public Protection & Judiciary committee, which shall be the policy oversight committee for the commission and be advisory to the

Health and Human Needs committee of the county board on major issues and with respect to budget and policy matters.

Commission Structure and Membership

The COSC consists of 16 voting members, each of whom must be appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The COSC also has five non-voting members, each representing one of the four Community Coordinated Response teams.

The 16 voting members of the COSC are mandated by county ordinance and include:

1. One member of the Madison Public Safety Review Board
2. One member of the Public Protection & Judiciary Committee
3. One member of the Health & Human Needs Committee
4. A representative from the Dane County District Attorney's Office
5. One representative from the Dane County Sheriff's Office
6. One representative from the Madison Police Department
7. One representative from the Dane County Department of Human Service
8. A representative of an organizations that provides services to victims of domestic violence
9. A representative of an organizations that provides services to victims of sexual assault
10. A representative of an organizations that provides services to victims of child abuse and neglect
11. A representative of an organizations that provides services to victims of elder abuse
12. A representative of an organization focusing on anti-racism work
13. A citizen who is informed about matters relating to the commission's areas of concern
14. Another citizen who is informed about matter relating to the commission's areas of concern
15. Another citizen who is informed about matters relating to the commission's areas of concern
16. A designee of the University of Wisconsin Chancellor

Commission Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, COSC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month from 9:30-

11:00am and are open to the public. The COSC does not meet in August or December. Meetings are

currently being conducted in a hybrid format, you can attend in person at the Aging & Disability

Resource Center, in Room 109 (2865 North Sherman Ave. Madison, WI 53704) or via Zoom

DANE COUNTY COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO ELDER ABUSE (EA-CCR)

The Dane County Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse (EA-CCR) is an appointed task force of the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC).

Elder abuse is any form of mistreatment that results in harm or loss to any person 60 years of age and older. It includes self-neglect, financial exploitation, neglect, and physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

ORDINANCE CHAPTER: ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES: COMMISSION ON SENSITIVE CRIMES: 15.23

- Policy development and coordination
 - EA-CCR is not typically involved in policy development but is willing to support proposed policy on EAN issues when asked or needed
 - Re: prevention, intervention, investigation, prosecution- these topics are discussed at each EA-CCR meeting as information-sharing but not as policy development or coordination
- Resources (incl website)
 - EA-CCR collects, assesses and shares EAN and older adult resources at every meeting
 - Dane County APS provides a yearly summary of EAN issues, reports, investigations and victimizations
 - Resource sharing and education is a priority for the EA-CCR and its subcommittees
- Studies and recommendations
 - EA-CCR does not conduct studies or make recommendations
 - EA-CCR would be willing to work with community partners to support their information-gathering or study efforts
- Legislation
 - EA-CCR is not typically involved in proposing or analyzing legislation but there is discussion of legislation if/when it is proposed or going through the legislative process
 - EA-CCR is willing to work with other agencies that are involved with legislation such as the Dane County Area Agency on Aging legislative committee
 - EA-CCR membership represents at the annual Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) Aging Advocacy Day by educating State legislators on priority issues impacting older adults
- Data
 - The State of WI collects data regarding state-wide and county elder abuse, neglect and exploitation via the WRAPS system
 - Dane County APS collects data as it relates to EAN and IDD abuse, Elder and IDD criminal victimizations, and dementia-related issues

EA-CCR MISSION STATEMENT

- To support the safety and quality of life of older adults in our community by reducing the incidence of elder abuse.

GOALS OF THE EA-CCR

- Educate the community, agencies, and service providers about how to identify and intervene when there is a concern regarding elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

OBJECTIVES

- Engage community systems and members in monthly meetings
- Using existing community resources, collaborate with area professionals and agencies to carry out the EA CCR mission
- Promote community events that carry out the EACCR mission
- Offer educational opportunities for EACCR and community members to address and/or prevent elder abuse
- Understand public policy that affects the well-being of elders in the Dane County community
- Broaden EA-CCR membership and participation through inclusion and diversity

FUNCTIONS OF THE EA-CCR

- The EA-CCR is an advisory committee appointed by the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC) and forms subcommittees when needed. The subcommittees report back to the EA-CCR on the progress of their projects and, if needed, the EA-CCR offers guidance, provides sanctions and promotes projects. A part-time staff person is funded through the Dane County budget to provide assistance with administrative tasks.

MEMBERSHIP

- The EA-CCR membership consists of community members, professionals and service providers who work with older adults who may be experiencing or are at risk for experiencing abuse, neglect and exploitation. Current membership includes representation from law enforcement, community social services, elder law attorneys, APS staff, financial institutions, Aging and Disability Resource Center, State of WI APS and Long-term care agencies, Managed Care Organizations and the University of WI Madison.

REPORTING

- The EA-CCR reports monthly to the COSC. Additionally, an annual report of the EA-CCR's accomplishments and ongoing projects is provided to GWAAR/State of Wisconsin.

MEETINGS

- The EA-CCR meetings are a place to discuss and problem-solve current issues related to elder abuse and exploitation. The meetings are also a networking opportunity for those working to end elder abuse in our community. The EA-CCR often hosts presenters on various topics. The agenda may also include group discussion and problem solving of cases presented from the membership. **The EA-CCR meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 11:30 am – 12:30pm**

SUBCOMMITTEES - The EA-CCR has four subcommittees:

Domestic Violence in Later Life – This subcommittee annually plans and hosts the Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference with funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. **DVinLL subcommittee meets on an as-needed basis**

FAST (Financial Abuse Specialist Team) – This subcommittee seeks to prevent the financial exploitation of older adults and to educate its members about the issue. Its membership includes law enforcement, attorneys, social workers, community members, financial institutions, court representatives and other professionals who work with older and vulnerable adults in Dane County. **FAST meets monthly on the 4th Thursday of each month, 11:30am-12:30pm**

HTF (Hoarding Task Force) – This subcommittee seeks to educate its members and the community about Hoarding behaviors and their effects as well as how to help those who struggle with the disorder and update community resources. **The Hoarding Task Force no longer meets regularly but can convene on an as-needed basis**

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – This subcommittee plans and holds events on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15) to call public attention to the issue of elder abuse. **WEAAD subcommittee meets January-June on an as-needed basis**

AREAS OF NEED/CONCERN AS REPORTED BY EA-CCR:

1. Community Based, In Home Mental Health Services for Older Adults:

Mental Health Mobile Outreach for victims of abuse & neglect as well as their families & caregivers regardless of ability to pay or where they live (rural, urban, etc).

In the past Journey Mental Health had the Mobile Outreach to Seniors Team (MOST). MOST was a team of mental health professionals who were able to meet with older adults experiencing mental health related challenges in their homes. This team was well versed in the needs of older adults and made receiving mental health support more accessible. MOST was disbanded a number of years ago and has left a gap in meeting the mental health needs of vulnerable older adults.

NewBridge, a non-profit agency which serves persons over 60, does have a Mental Health Resource Team but they do not provide mental health intervention services, but, instead, work to connect older adults with mental health needs to other resources – which are very limited.

2. Home-based physician and/or Nurse Practitioner care to assess, monitor and prescribe to older adults who cannot access a clinic or hospital setting

There is very limited access to mental health prescribers in Dane County and even less for persons who are older and have behavioral / mental health needs.

Having a geriatric or older adult informed prescriber available as part of a community based, in home mental health services team would improve accessibility to a practitioner to prescribe psychotropic and other related medications.

3. Access to Forensic Accounting Services:

Cases involving financial exploitation remain one of the top reports received by Dane County APS. Such cases can be very complex when trying to untangle how money was accessed, by whom, across with accounts, investments, etc.

While Elder Abuse & Adults at Risk social workers do an amazing job figuring out these cases, they are not accountants. They may spend a great deal of time sorting through bank statements, investments accounts, credit card statements, etc in order to figure out if exploitation has occurred.

Having access to a forensic account, for those most complex cases, would enhance the team's ability to bring cases forward to law enforcement as evidence of financial exploitation, and, ideally, charges against those who have perpetrated abuse.

4. Affordable, Accessible Certified Fiduciaries:

Victims of financial exploitation may, at times, benefit from a professional to help them manage and monitor their finances. These individuals may be persons for whom a representative payee through Social Security (which can take MONTHS to secure) or guardianship are not appropriate.

Private money managers, who are certified, could be a less costly and less restrictive option to help persons who want assistance and be protected from current or future financial exploitation.

5. Accessible, Flexible Transportation Options

Transportation that is flexible and accessible across Dane County is needed to support older adults.

While RSVP and Metro Paratransit can be helpful, they may not be available in the moment an older adult, who is being victimized or at risk of being victimized, needs them. Lack of transportation may result in an older adult remaining in a risky situation where they are not able to get away to safely seek support or services in their moment of need and may not have the ability to secure a cab or other transportation options.

6. Nurse Case Manager for Adult Protective Services

Older adults may present to APS with complex needs including those related to their health status. A nurse case manager would enhance the assessment of social workers by including information about the person's health needs and how they are impacting the situation. A nurse would be able to see the individual in their home setting negating the need, in some cases, for the person to be seen in a clinic or hospital. An APS nurse case manager could be a liaison with the person's medical care providers.

Milwaukee County has a nurse case manager on their APS team and it has been found to be very beneficial.

7. Dementia Stabilization & Care Transition Unit - *planning currently underway*

Funding was included in the 2025 budget to complete a feasibility study to determine if Dane County can create a stabilization unit for persons with dementia expressing physically aggressive behaviors to the degree that they or their caregivers are unsafe in their home setting.

Persons with dementia cannot be emergently detained (ED'd) under Chapter 51 so a setting is needed where they can safely be supported, medications are assessed/adjusted and planning can occur for a return to the community.

Such a setting does not exist in Dane County and is very much needed.

A project manager for this work is being sought at this time.

8. Accessible Homeless Shelter for Older Adults with Physical, Medical & Mobility Issues:

The existing shelters are not equipped to meet the needs of guests who may present with mobility or health needs for which they need support. As a result, if such guests do present to the shelters and need help with toileting, bathing, etc, it is a strain both on the staff at the shelter and the guest.

Additionally, persons who are unhoused with complex functional and health needs find it very hard to have to transition from the overnight shelter to The Beacon, who also is not equipped to support these guests.

Ideally, each overnight shelter would be equipped with a few beds for those guests for whom transitioning between the day and night shelter is difficult and negatively impacts their health. One and/or two staff, preferably Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), would be available to support the residents during the day. It would also allow a setting in which service providers could meet with them to get them connected to community supports.

9. Housing – Affordable, Accessible, Safe Housing

All types of housing options are needed – long term, temporary and emergency.

DANE COUNTY INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (I/DD CCR)

- The Dane County Intellectual and developmental disabilities Coordinated Community Response is an appointed task force of the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC).
- I/DD Abuse is any form of mistreatment that results in harm or loss to any person 18 years of age or older. It includes neglect or self-neglect, financial exploitation, and physical, emotional or sexual abuse.
- Individuals with I/DD are up to 10 times more likely to be victims of crime than people without disabilities. They are also 7 times more likely to be victims of sexual assault. Many of these crimes go unreported and unprosecuted because victims are often not believed or understood.

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- Policy development and coordination
 - I/DD CCR is not typically involved in policy development but is willing to support proposed policy on Adults at risk (AAR) issues when asked or needed
 - Re: prevention, intervention, investigation, prosecution- these topics are discussed at each I/DD CCR meeting as information-sharing but not as policy development or coordination
- Resources (incl website)
 - I/DD CCR collects, assesses and shares AAR and older adult resources at meetings
 - Dane County APS provides a yearly summary of AAR issues, reports, investigations and victimizations
 - Resource sharing and education is a priority for the I/DD CCR and its subcommittees
- Studies and recommendations
 - I/DD CCR does not conduct studies or make recommendations
 - I/DD CCR would be willing to work with community partners to support their information-gathering or study efforts
- Legislation
 - I/DD CCR is not typically involved in proposing or analyzing legislation but there is discussion of legislation if/when it is proposed or going through the legislative process
 - I/DD CCR is willing to work with other agencies that are involved with legislation as needed.
- Data
 - The State of WI collects data regarding state-wide and county adults at risk/elder abuse, neglect and exploitation via the WRAPS system
 - Dane County APS collects data as it relates to AAR and I/DD abuse, Elder and I/DD criminal victimizations, and dementia-related issues

I/DD CCR MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote through cross system coordination, the prevention of criminal victimization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) by increasing awareness of risk, promoting safety, and supporting justice thereby enhancing their quality of life.

I/DD CCR GOALS:

We believe that by focusing on outreach and education across systems we can help increase the safety and justice of both the I/DD individual who was the victim of a crime as well as the I/DD individual who may have perpetrated of the crime.

OBJECTIVES

1. Engage community systems and members in monthly meetings
2. Use existing community resources and collaborations to carry out the I/DD CCR mission
3. Promote community events that carry out the I/DD CCR mission
4. Offer educational opportunities to the I/DD CCR membership in addressing and/or preventing abuse on individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
5. Understand public policy that affects the well-being of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Dane County
6. Broaden I/DD CCR membership and participation through inclusion, equity and diversity

FUNCTIONS OF THE I/DD CCR

- The I/DD CCR is an advisory committee appointed by the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes and forms subcommittees when needed. Subcommittees report to the I/DD CCR on their projects and events and, if needed, the I/DD CCR offers guidance and promotion. A part-time staff person is funded through the Dane County budget to provide assistance with administrative tasks to the I/DD CCR and its subcommittees.

MEMBERSHIP

- The I/DD CCR membership consists of community members, professionals and service providers who work with adults at risk who may be experiencing or are at risk for experiencing abuse, neglect and exploitation. Current membership includes representation from law enforcement, community social services/support brokers, APS staff, Aging and Disability Resource Center, State of WI APS and Long-term care agencies, such as Managed Care Organizations and IRIS.

MEETINGS

- I/DD CCR meetings are a place to network, discuss and problem-solve issues related to I/DD abuse and exploitation in our community. The I/DD CCR also hosts presenters on various abuse and exploitation- related topics as well as provides case consultations presented by the membership. **The I/DD CCR meets virtually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 12:00PM -1:30PM** on a quarterly basis.

REPORTS

- The I/DD CCR reports monthly to the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC).

AREAS OF NEED/CONCERN AS REPORTED BY ID - CCR:

- **Improved competence and confidence of residential care (Adult Family Home, Community Based Residential Facility, Supported Living Apartments) staff when responding to behavioral crises of persons with IDD.**
- **Education of law enforcement and other first responders as to best practice approaches when responding to behaviorally related crises of persons with IDD.**
Continue and expand on education of law enforcement and other first responders as to considerations and approaches when responding to a situation involving persons with IDD. Such education may minimize unintended misunderstandings of or escalation of the situation.
- **More resources that are specific to help minimize the vulnerability of persons with IDD:**
 - Accessible and affordable counseling/therapy practitioners who are IDD informed
 - Accessible and affordable education for persons with IDD about what it means to have a health relationship, how they can advocate for themselves and what to be aware of should someone try to take advantage of them.
- **Consistent and expected transition planning discussions for persons with IDD as they move from children's long term care programs to adult long term care programs.**
Transition planning helps formalize the process by which an adult long term care provider can learn more from and about the adult with IDD who will be enrolling into their program. It ensures that more person centered planning can occur to support the adult through the transition, thereby minimizing the risk of victimization, exploitation or behavioral crises due to new providers not understanding or not knowing how to best support the individual.

DANE COUNTY CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (CAN CCR)

Mission CAN-CCR

The mission CAN-CCR is to:

- Promote the development of a full continuum of best-practice strategies and services from crisis, prevention, early intervention and treatment response to remedy and reduce the occurrence of abuse and neglect of children;
- Promote consensus among system members regarding the principles and philosophy of which those strategies/services/responses are based to minimize the negative impacts on children and families of the investigation, intervention and/or prosecution process;
- Coordinate and collaborate with representatives of multiple systems to ensure clarity of roles and appropriate responses and referrals for victim services;
- Promote the continual improvement of service & system response to child abuse, child sexual abuse and neglect through gathering of data, assessing results, modifying and coordinating *systems and services* as indicated.
- Promote a child abuse response system of inclusion and racial equity

Functions and Structure of the CAN-CCR

The CAN-CCR is an advisory committee under the umbrella of the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC). The CAN CCR is charged to serve a collaborative, oversight and coordination function of community child abuse response to fulfill the mission outlined above. The CCR designates subcommittees to accomplish project work. Subcommittees report on their initiatives, goals, activities, and project progress at CAN-CCR meetings to ensure coordination and support across system efforts to address child abuse and neglect issues in the community. The CAN-CCR meeting provides a forum for discussion and collaboration to inform subcommittee project work. A part-time staff person is funded through the Dane County budget to provide assistance with administrative tasks.

Membership

The CAN-CCR membership is comprised of Dane County area professionals and community members with an interest and investment in the CCR mission. CAN CCR membership includes, but is not limited to, staff from human service providers, schools, mental health agencies, child and family programs, community and neighborhood centers and Dane County Human Services.

Meetings

The CAN-CCR meets quarterly convening the lead facilitators for each subcommittee and is open to all CCR CAN members. Agendas are sent out a week in advance of the meeting. The CAN-CCR often hosts presenters on various topics such as TBD. The agenda may also include group discussion and problem solving based on subcommittee project work and current events related to CAN issues of cases presented from the membership.

CAN CCR will meet quarterly— **March, June, September, December**

Reports

The CAN-CCR reports monthly to the COSC. Additionally, an annual report of the CAN-CCR's accomplishments and ongoing projects is presented to the COSC and the Dane County Board of Supervisors. COSC interested in pursuing policy recommendations. Wants to become a feeder for legislation to improve system response and forum for other issues.

Subcommittees

Safe Harbor Case Review

Chair: Jennifer Ginsburg

Meeting Schedule: set- invite only

This subcommittee provides a forum for professionals involved in Safe Harbor forensic interviewing/law enforcement/prosecutorial process to review and coordinate response for active, open investigations to ensure high quality and continued cooperation and collaboration between systems in the investigative process to minimize the system-related trauma for children and families. Reviews follow credentialing standards.

Prevention and Early Intervention

Chairs: Audrey Conn & Jessica Wipperfurth

Meeting Schedule:

This subcommittee provides a platform for large system (medical, school, CPS) and grassroots (community and neighborhood based) prevention efforts to coordinate, learn from and support each other to maximize their reach and impact to support families to prevent child abuse from occurring. Current efforts include optimizing social media and create CAN-CCR resource and information web site. PEI efforts are considered and delivered from a racial and health equity lens.

Mental Health Service Provider Coordination

Chairs: Jennifer Ginsberg

Meeting Schedule:

This subcommittee provides a forum for treatment providers to review cases, share best practices and coordinate response for children and families in the service system.

Macro Policy/Legislative Issues

Chairs: Eve Dorman & Jenny Grether

Meeting Schedule:

This subcommittee is charged to monitor and advocate for state and local policies that support and strengthen families, and mobilize a response to policy changes that will impact families.

School/Education Coordination

Chairs: Gina Aguglia

Meeting Schedule:

This subcommittee provides a space for school social workers and other staff to discuss and stay informed of CPS related issues, statutes and policies that impact students and interface in the school setting. This subcommittee also provides a forum to discuss social work higher education and how it prepares social workers to work in CPS.

AREAS OF NEED/CONCERN AS REPORTED BY JENNIFER GINSBURG (SAFE HARBOR CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER):

- **Waiting lists for mental health providers**
 - If there are medicaid cuts, we will be in a mental health crisis. As this directly impacts the CCS program and items like school mental health support.
- **Housing instability is a child safety issue because you have children living with unsafe people in unsafe situations putting them at increased risk of victimization.**
 - Doubling up with multiple families that may not have space

- Lack of childcare and therefore leaving the child at risk in unsafe situations
- **Domestic Violence is a child safety issue**
 - Emergency housing
 - Co-occurrence of intimate partner violence and child abuse ie current study around strangulation
 - Children are not just bystanders. When children intervene, the harm do-ers threaten and also harm the children.
 - The safe parent needs to be supported and housed
- **Trafficking**
 - Lack of access to housing leaves older youth more vulnerable to trafficking.
 - More spaces for unaccompanied youth to access safe foster care and group home facilities
- **Critical issues/trends identified by the CCR as a whole**
 - Gun Violence responding to those incidents in a timely and efficient manner
 - Immigration/Deportation increased mental health needs fear from immigrant communities to access help.
 - Youth Justice has seen more mental health crises going through the criminal legal system
 - Internet Crimes against Children
 - Emergency funding support for relatives caring for a family member's child
 - Parental support for safe parent
 - Mental health support for harm do-er parent

DANE COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE (DVSA CCR)

- The Dane County Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coordinated Community Response is an appointed task force of the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC).
- Domestic Violence (DV) is behavior between familial, domestic, or dating partners that cause harm that can present itself in different forms including sexual violence, physical violence, emotional or psychological violence, financial violence, and stalking. DV occurs in ALL populations regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or income.
- Wisconsin ranks 7th in the nation for domestic violence homicides.
- Sexual violence is an umbrella term defined as any sexual behavior that happens without a person's consent. This can include, but is not limited to: Rape (statutory, marital, date), child molestation, incest, assault, unwanted groping/fondling, stalking, verbal or physical harassment, voyeurism, flashing, trafficking, etc. These are all acts in which sex is used as a tool of power, control, intimidation and violence.
- In Wisconsin, 1 in 3 adult female identified persons and 1 in 5 male identified persons have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime.
- LGBTQIA+ and people of color experience higher rates due to more exposure to risk due to various forms of oppression.

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- Policy development and coordination
 - DVSA CCR reviews current legislation and talks through items as it relates and makes suggestions to the Sensitive Crimes Commission or directly to the County Board.
 - Crisis services, prevention, intervention, recovery, investigation, prosecution- these topics are discussed at DVSA CCR meetings as information-sharing and policy development or coordination of services within the community
- Resources (incl website)
 - DVSA CCR collects, assesses and shares resources at meetings
 - Resource sharing is a priority for the DVSA CCR and its subcommittees
- Studies and recommendations
 - DVSA CCR has conducted studies throughout its history which have included gaps in services and policy recommendations
- Legislation
 - DVSA CCR is involved in analyzing legislation and there is discussion of legislation if/when it is proposed or going through the legislative process
- Data

- Each individual stakeholder presents data to the committee, the commission, and funders like Dane County.

DVSA CCR MISSION STATEMENT:

Every five years or so, since the inception of the Dane County Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (DV/SA-CCR), we have taken a step back and tried to evaluate how effective we are and what direction we need to take to continue the work to end domestic violence and assault. To that end we are currently re-evaluating our mission statement to ensure we are in step with the needs of survivors. We are conducting a survey of the community to focus the work moving forward.

DVSA CCR GOALS:

The DV/SA-CCR is an advisory committee under the umbrella of the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC) and has a number of subcommittees where the actual work is done. The subcommittees report back to the DV/SA-CCR on the progress of projects and, if needed, the DV/SA-CCR provides guidance to the subcommittees and sanctions projects. The DV/SA-CCR reports monthly to the COSC, and there is an annual report that is prepared about the DV-CCR's accomplishments and ongoing projects. This is presented to the Dane County Board of Supervisors.

The DV/SA-CCR meetings are a place to discuss and problem-solve current issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault. The meetings are also a networking opportunity for those working to end domestic violence and sexual assault in our community.

OBJECTIVES

1. Engage community systems and members in monthly meetings
2. Use existing community resources and collaborations to carry out the DVSA CCR mission
3. Promote community events that carry out the DVSA CCR mission
4. Offer educational opportunities to the DVSA CCR membership in addressing and/or preventing abuse on individuals.
5. Recommend public policy that affects the well-being of survivors in Dane County
6. Broaden DVSA CCR membership and participation through inclusion, equity and diversity

FUNCTIONS OF THE DVSA CCR

- The DVSA CCR is an advisory committee appointed by the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes and forms subcommittees when needed. Subcommittees report to the DVSA CCR on their projects and events and, if needed, the DVSA CCR offers guidance and promotion. A part-time staff person is funded through the Dane County budget to provide assistance with administrative tasks to the DVSA CCR and its subcommittees.

MEMBERSHIP

- The DVSA CCR membership consists of community members, professionals and service providers who work with persons who have experienced domestic and sexual violence and their harm do-ers.
- The DVSA CCR has two subcommittees: Legal issues to talk through issues as it relates to legislation and the criminal legal system and Trafficking to specifically work through human trafficking in our community.

MEETINGS

- DVSA CCR meetings are a place to network, discuss and problem-solve issues related to domestic and sexual violence in our community. **The DVSA CCR meets virtually on the 1st Wednesday of the month, from 12:00PM -1:00PM** on a monthly basis.

REPORTS

- The DVSA CCR reports monthly to the Dane County Commission on Sensitive Crimes (COSC).

AREAS OF NEED/CONCERN AS REPORTED BY DVSA - CCR:

- **Housing**
 - Permanent: There is insufficient housing for our lowest earners or those with multiple points of hardship like AODA or mental health issues. Not just the amount of units but what is needed to access said units. If you are unhoused and are repeatedly victimized in spaces, you may not have access to phones or mail. There is not a current mechanism to have a centralized way for unhoused victims to receive these types of services because of communication barriers. In addition the paperwork necessary to obtain housing i.e. award letters and identifying documents can be hard to obtain without access to phones, transportation, mail services. In private housing, the rental criteria is a barrier as most of our most vulnerable victims do not have higher credit scores, make three times the rent, or have sufficient rental history. Victims of DVSA in particular may receive a poor reference due to issues surrounding their victimization.
 - Transitional: These housing programs no longer receive HUD funding and so are not available in the same manner as before. No new transitional programs.
 - Shelter:
 - Men's shelter has been designated as an unsafe place for survivors with little privacy and wide open spaces. The new shelter will have more space but isn't open for another two years and does not have operational funding to expand services beyond what is happening currently.
 - Women's and family shelters have the same limitations in addition to overflow issues. We regularly are being asked to cover emergency housing through hotels versus shelters due to fears about trafficking, deportation, and safety.
 - DV shelter is a lethality based shelter which means that only those at highest risk of homicide are given access to the shelter. This program is also underfunded and does not function at full capacity.
- **Funding** in DV SA circles has been shrinking. VOCA cuts have had current wide ranging effects.
- **Expansion in treatment programs for harm-doers.**

- **Increased funds for crisis intervention services.** IE we currently do not have hospital accompaniments for DV
- Biggest additional challenges/risks are exemplified by multiple direct service programs seeing **increased demands**. Victimhood won't decrease, so demand will increase as available services decrease. How to set/manage realistic expectations in the powers that be within the community re what we'll be able to do with fewer resources. How do remaining organizations re-prioritize? E.g. DAIS had to re-set our lethality risk assessment because demand for shelter is increasing.
- Need to communicate the importance of **funding existing, proven-effective services** (in NPOs) vs. (re)creating (new) services within County human services. This tendency is more costly and harms existing NPOs.
- **Deferred prosecution / diversion requires infrastructure, namely DV treatment.** County made it clear the years ahead will be financially tight, so no new positions in DA's office, working with victims as best as possible, outreach to community programs/agencies is crucial. **The system is not confidential**; advocates in local agencies increase resources and support available to victims.
- **Calling attention to existing collaboration:** UNIDOS and community health workers at Allied have begun Spanish-speaking groups for men who have voiced interest. We need to be there for our men. RCC/DAIS/UNIDOS/FREEDOM INC. is collaborating on a hospital accompaniment program for DV victims with RCC being lead agency to provide services with MOUs for existing DV agencies to receive referrals after the forensic nurse exam is completed. Not necessarily creating something new in terms of providers/agencies, but still **promoting new partnerships, collaboration, and creativity in grassroots efforts**. As we move forward, identifying who's been participating in these conversations for years, drawing on existing agencies and experts, and tapping into new possibilities for referrals.