

Third Party Reporting Updated Protocol

In 2008, a province-wide Third Party Reporting (TPR) Protocol was implemented in British Columbia by EVA BC's CCWS program in partnership with a provincial Work Team that included the BC Association of Chiefs of Police, RCMP "E" Division, Saanich Police Department, Vancouver Police Department Sex Crimes Unit, and the BC Ministry of Justice. Local coordination of the BC TPR protocol is facilitated by Community-Based Victim Services (CBVS) programs in collaboration with RCMP and Municipal Police.



Deputy Chief Constable Scott Green, Saanich Police Department, past TPR Work Team member

CCWS appreciates the Saanich Police Department for their dedicated Working Group membership, representing the BC Association of Municipal Chiefs of Police (BCAMCP) since 2001.

BCAMCP is currently represented on the CCWS Working Group by Deputy Chief Shane Barber of the West Vancouver Police Department.

In 2013, CCWS/EVA BC re-engaged the TPR Work Team to discuss policy and protocol implementation successes and challenges. Based on research and information gathered, the 2008 Provincial Protocol was updated. The updated Protocol was endorsed by the BC Association of Chiefs of Police in November 2014. The current BC Provincial Protocol includes TPR Protocol Guidelines for Community-Based Victim Services (CBVS) and TPR Protocol Guidelines for Police.

BC's TPR protocol is intended to ensure that every effort is made to encourage reporting of sexual assault to police, particularly in high risk cases or cases involving serial offenders or sexual predators. It also provides an option for adult victims (19 and over) to report details of a sexual offence/assault to police anonymously, through CBVS. This "Third Party Report" is an option of last resort for victims who would not otherwise provide information to the police. It is not a substitute for a call to 911, nor is it in and of itself a police investigation.

The intent of the BC TPR protocol is not to circumvent the criminal justice system but to build a bridge, better enabling particularly vulnerable victims to access the system. The hope is that the existence of the TPR option may encourage vulnerable people to seek the help of a community-based agency and build a relationship of trust with that agency, rather than remaining invisible to and unsupported by any response system. With enough information and the knowledge that she could have support through the entire process, some victims may choose to make a full report to police.

The process is described in full detail in the EVA BC/CCWS publication ***Third Party Reporting Guidebook: Increasing Reporting Options for Sexual Assault Victims November 2015***. The TPR work team developed the November 2015 Guidebook to increase the use and effectiveness of Third Party Reporting in BC. It includes Protocol Guidelines as well a template for a local interagency TPR protocol, a sample TPR report cover sheet and a sample TPR report form. Original cover sheets and forms as well as other information or support with Third Party Reporting is available from CCWS at ccws@endingviolence.org or phone 604 633-2506 ext 15.

Amendments to the 2008 TPR protocol are intended to address the following needs identified to the TPR Work Team during the 2013/14 review*:

- To encourage more consistent and widespread local implementation and awareness of the TPR Provincial Protocol,
- To clarify under what circumstances personal identifying information collected by the CBVS pursuant to the TPR will be shared with police, including CBVS legal authority pursuant to the Personal Information Protection Act to disclose client personal information without consent where there are compelling circumstances affecting health and safety, and
- To reinforce the CBVS agencies' potential bridging role, namely, to help vulnerable victims overcome barriers to accessing the criminal justice system.

**The review included a provincial survey of police and CBVS programs conducted by the TPR Work Team; EVA/CCWS dialogue with its member agencies and police/RCMP as part of a half day TPR Workshop at the EVA BC Annual Training Forum; information provided by communities during TPR training in the Fraser Health Region; and a teleconference with EVA member agencies across the province.*



TPR Training Session in the Fraser Health Region.

Capacity Building Highlights

Deepening Collaboration to Improve the North Vancouver Response to Domestic and Sexual Violence (North Vancouver/West Vancouver; July 15, 2015): This half-day coordination workshop explored and conveyed strategic planning and committee arrangements to sustain capacity, even though funding for a coordinator had been terminated. ICAT principles and practices overview was presented to 25 participants.

ICAT/VAWIR Presentation to Community Stakeholders Forum (Ashcroft, Cache Creek; August 20, 2015): An overview of VAWIR, ICAT and community collaboration was presented to this community group.

ICAT Safety Planning and Risk Identification – 2 Sessions (Nanaimo & Ladysmith; September 8, 2015): Two half-day ICAT presentations were made to two different groups in one day, facilitated by CCWS and RCMP.

ICAT/VAWIR Training (Cranbrook; September 23 & 24, 2015): 30 participants from Fernie, Elk Valley, Kimberly, Creston and Cranbrook attended this two-day training delivered by CCWS, RCMP and PODV. RCMP, MCFD, the anti-violence sector and health were all in attendance.

ICAT/VAWIR Training (Upper Fraser Valley; September 29 & 30, 2015): This two-day workshop reviewed and updated the purpose, principles and best practices of both the Violence Against Women in Relationships Coordination initiatives and Interagency Case Assessment Teams for highest risk domestic violence cases.

Records Management for Interagency Case Assessment Teams (Kelowna; October 1, 2015): Delivered to 11 participants, this workshop focused on assisting the existing ICAT team to align their records management processes with the ICAT Best Practices.

VAWIR Strategic Plan (Kelowna; October 28, 2015): This workshop focused on assisting the Kelowna VAWIR to strategize around the committee's purpose and goals as they move forward.

Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence (Powell River; November 3 & 4, 2015): This training focused on increasing capacity in identifying high risk domestic violence cases, sharing information legally and ethically, and collaborating on increasing safety. The session also assisted participants to map out the current response to domestic and sexual violence and engage in strategic planning on identified issues such as service gaps.



Participants in the Powell River training took time out to gather for a photo!

Working Together to Increase Safety (Prince Rupert; November 17 & 18, 2015): This training focused on increasing capacity in identifying high risk domestic violence cases, sharing information legally and ethically, collaborating on increasing safety, ICAT case process and records management best practices. 31 participants from a diversity of sectors attended the 2-day session.

Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence (Surrey; November 26 & 27, 2015): Delivered to over 30 key stakeholders in the Surrey response system, this 2-day training focused on increasing capacity in identifying high risk domestic violence cases, sharing information legally and ethically, and collaborating on increasing safety.

VAWIR Strategic Planning (Penticton; December 2, 2015) – 23 participants attended this workshop focused on assisting the Penticton VAWIR to strategize around the committee's purpose and goals as they move forward.

ICAT Consultation (Penticton; December 2, 2015) – This consultation focused on practice issues that have arisen in the course of the Penticton ICAT's work.

Interagency Case Assessment Teams: Working Together to Reduce the Impact of Domestic Violence (Kamloops; December 3, 2015) – This workshop focused on assisting the existing ICAT team to align their current processes with the ICAT Best Practices.

Working Collaboratively to Identify and Respond to Highest Risk Domestic Violence (Prince George; February 11 and 12, 2016): This training hosted by the Prince George ICAT focused on increasing capacity in identifying high risk domestic violence cases, sharing information

legally and ethically, collaborating to increase safety, and next steps for the development or enhancement of their VAWIR Committees and ICATs. 30 participants from several communities attended the 2-day session, including representatives from Fort St James, Lake Babine Nation, Nak'azdli First Nation, Prince George, Quesnel, Takla First Nation and Williams Lake.

Community Collaboration Teams – Working Together to Reduce the Impact of Domestic Violence Regional Training Workshop (Dawson Creek, March 1 & 2, 2016): This 2-day VAWIR and ICAT training, hosted by South Peace Community Resources Society of Dawson Creek was delivered to communities in the Northeast section of BC, including Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson, Chetwynd, Tumbler Ridge and Hudson's Hope. The 43 participants represented Community-Based Victim Services, Police Based Victim Services, Transition Houses, Community Corrections, Forensic Psychiatric Services, MCFD, RCMP, First Nations organizations and Friendship Centres, anti-violence counsellors and services for people who are homeless.

Conference Presentations

Third Party Reporting of Sexual Assault; Access to the Criminal Justice System for Marginalized Victims of Sexual Assault (It's Never Okay): The 2015 Summit on Sexual Violence and Harassment; Toronto; November 18, 2015) – CCWS Regional Coordinator Morgen Baldwin travelled to Toronto to participate in this panel presentation that provided an overview of the background, provincial structure, process and benefits of the BC Third Party Reporting Protocol. The other panelist was a survivor of sexual assault who spoke about her experience of being supported by the Surrey Mobile Assault Response Team (SMART).

Interagency Case Assessment Teams: Working Together to Reduce the Impact of Domestic Violence (BC Collaborates Training Forum; Vancouver; December 9, 2015) – There were approximately 70 participants in this workshop that covered the importance of coordination, ICAT history and support, information sharing and informed consent, risk factors, ICAT case review process including records management, a group case study and a question and answer period.

Increasing Safety: Collaborative Risk Management for Domestic Violence Prevention (BC Collaborates Training Forum; Vancouver; December 10, 2015) – Approximately 40 participants attended this workshop that was a combination of learning and skill building on risk identification and safety planning. Participants included representatives from RCMP (BC, NWT, Alberta), MCFD, victim services, academics and anti-violence workers.



Information Sharing Keynote Panelists at BC Collaborates, L-R: Alex Scheiber, Sonja Sinclair, Gisela Ruebsaat, Kyle Friesen.

Information Sharing Keynote Panel Discussion (BC Collaborates Training Forum; Vancouver; December 10, 2015) – CCWS Legal Analyst Gisela Ruebsaat participated in this panel presentation on information sharing with Bev Dicks, Provincial Office of Domestic Violence; Alex Scheiber, Ministry of Children and Family Development; Kyle Friesen, RCMP Legal Advisory Section, Department of Justice; and Sonja Sinclair, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Resources

View these and other CCWS resources and publications online at

<http://endingviolence.org/research-publications/>

- *Income Assistance Policies to Support Persons Fleeing Abuse, January 2015*
- *Critical Privacy Sharing Provisions Which Impact Information Sharing in Woman Abuse Cases*

VAWIR Committee Conference Call

CCWS staff facilitated a conference call for 23 participants representing coordination initiatives throughout the province on March 10, 2016. Discussion focussed on how groups are meeting the demands of building or keeping interest in VAWIR or sexual assault coordination given the increased interest and activity in ICATs, Safe Relationships, Safe Children projects and other cross-sector teams, as well as sharing their ideas for invigorating and reenergizing VAWIR and sexual assault coordination initiatives.

Provincial Working Group

The most recent Working Group meeting was held in Vancouver on February 23, 2016. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on October 4, 2016.

Upcoming Training

Risk Identification and Safety Planning for Indigenous Communities:

- Gitwagak: April 4-5, 2016
- Nass Valley: June 2016 (dates to be confirmed)
- Kamloops (including Merrit and Lytton): May 16-17, 2016

Risk Identification and Safety Planning:

- Kelowna: May 3-4, 2016

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