



Wake County Family Justice Center Initiative: InterAct Presentation

**Wake County Board of Commissioners
Public Safety Committee
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The Time is Now...

- Nationally, only 4% of abused victims accessed services of a domestic violence service provider in the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner.
- The lifetime economic cost to the U.S. for victims of intimate partner violence is \$3.6 trillion.
- The single best predictor of children becoming either perpetrators or victims of domestic violence later in life is whether or not they grow up in a home where there is domestic violence.



The Need is Urgent

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetimes. (CDC, 2019)
- In 2012 and again in 2016, Wake County experienced more domestic violence-related homicides than any county in NC.
- In 1/3 of City of Raleigh's Police Districts, domestic-related calls ranked in the top 3 Calls for Service.



Why We Are Here

- Critical Public Safety Issues
- Can only be addressed through deep partnerships and integration of services
- Can best be addressed through a public/private partnership: InterAct, key stakeholders, and Wake County
- Building on Wake County's track record of success
- We are a community with solutions!



Why We Are Here

- Wake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Recommendations
 - Increased Communication Across Agencies
 - Management of High Risk Offenders
 - Expansion of Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)
 - Increased Community Awareness, Focus on Friends and Family
 - **Family Justice Center/Multi-Agency Model**



Family Justice Center/Multi-Agency Model

- Family Justice Centers and Multi-Agency Centers are:
 - multi-agency, multi-disciplinary
 - co-located service centers
 - that provide services to victims of inter-personal violence including:
 - intimate partner violence
 - sexual assault
 - child abuse
 - elder or dependent adult abuse
 - human trafficking



Engagement with Alliance for HOPE International

- One size does not fit all
- Community-driven and community-led
- Family Justice Center model identified as best practice by the US Department of Justice
- Draws on experience of more than 100 existing models here in the US and internationally



Partnership with Wake County

- Wake County Fatality Review Team
 - InterAct appointed as lead agency by Wake County Board of Commissioners
- Ongoing partnerships:
 - Wake County Human Services (Work First, Child Welfare, Regional Centers)
 - District Attorney's Office (Victim Witness Assistance)
 - Sheriff's Office: Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)
 - Clerk of Court and Judiciary (Electronic Filing for DVPO Petitions, Court Advocacy and Navigator Programs)
 - Wake County EMS



Partnership with Wake County (continued)

- MOUs with Wake County for Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) and Governor's Crime Commission grants
- Meetings with County Staff
- County engagement:
 - November 2018: Community Meeting and Study Tour
 - February 2019: Strategic Visioning
 - June 2019: Convening of Steering Committee and Work Group



Impact of a Family Justice Center/ Multi-Agency Model of Services

Documented outcomes nationally include:

- Reduced Homicides
- Increased Victim Safety
- Increased Autonomy and Empowerment
- Reduced Fear and Anxiety
- Reduced Recantation and Minimization
- Increased Prosecution of Offenders
- Increased Community Support
- Increased Efficiency and Coordination



Making a Difference in Wake County

- Different way of delivering services
 - One safe place to access kind-hearted support and care along a survivor's pathway to hope
 - Deepening relationships – with survivors and their families across the lifespan...and with each other
- Evaluation and Outcomes: Not just what services we will provide but the difference they will make
 - Role of UNC-CH and NC State researchers
 - Evaluation and Outcomes Work Group

Making a Difference in Wake County (continued...)

- Benchmarking against national and state-wide outcomes:
 - Reduced Homicides
 - Increased Victim Safety
 - Increased Autonomy and Empowerment
 - Reduced Fear and Anxiety
 - Reduced Recantation and Minimization
 - Increased Prosecution of Offenders
 - Increased Community Support
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Making a Difference in Wake County (continued...)

- Greater Reach in Community
 - Meeting needs of underserved populations
 - Increasing geographical reach and access
 - Expanding Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) training
 - Involving key stakeholders from municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county

Recommendation

- Phase 1:
 - Deepen partnerships and collaborations
 - Expand InterAct's co-location model of service delivery at InterAct's Family Safety and Empowerment Center
 - 6,000 sf on top floor
 - InterAct continues as backbone organization
 - Funding has been secured for next 3 years with InterAct as fiscal agent
 - Dream Big. Start Small
 - Working together in new, different, and more impactful ways can start now.
- Phase 2: Just Imagine!



Next Steps

- Mobilize Steering Committee and Work Groups
- Road Trips
- Systems-Level Training:
 - Trauma-informed Care
 - Confidentiality
 - OVW Training
- Office Space



Questions?