

Alaska's Support for those Experiencing Sexual and Domestic Violence



March, 2025



Presenters:

Brenda Stanfill, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, - Overview

Keeley Olson – Standing Together Against Rape, Anchorage

Information on the support provided to victims of sexual assault and the SART Process with or without the Criminal Justice System.

Rebecca Shields – Kodiak Women's Resource and Crisis Center
Information on the support provided to domestic violence/sexual assault victims with a legal advocacy lens and the Coordinated Community Response Model

Eileen Arnold- TWC, Bethel

Information on support provided to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in rural communities

History of the Movement

1976 - concerned women who saw the need for services for battered women and victims of rape established the Alaska Women's Resource Center in Anchorage- Rape rates in Alaska were 2x that of the US average. Domestic violence was not yet a crime.

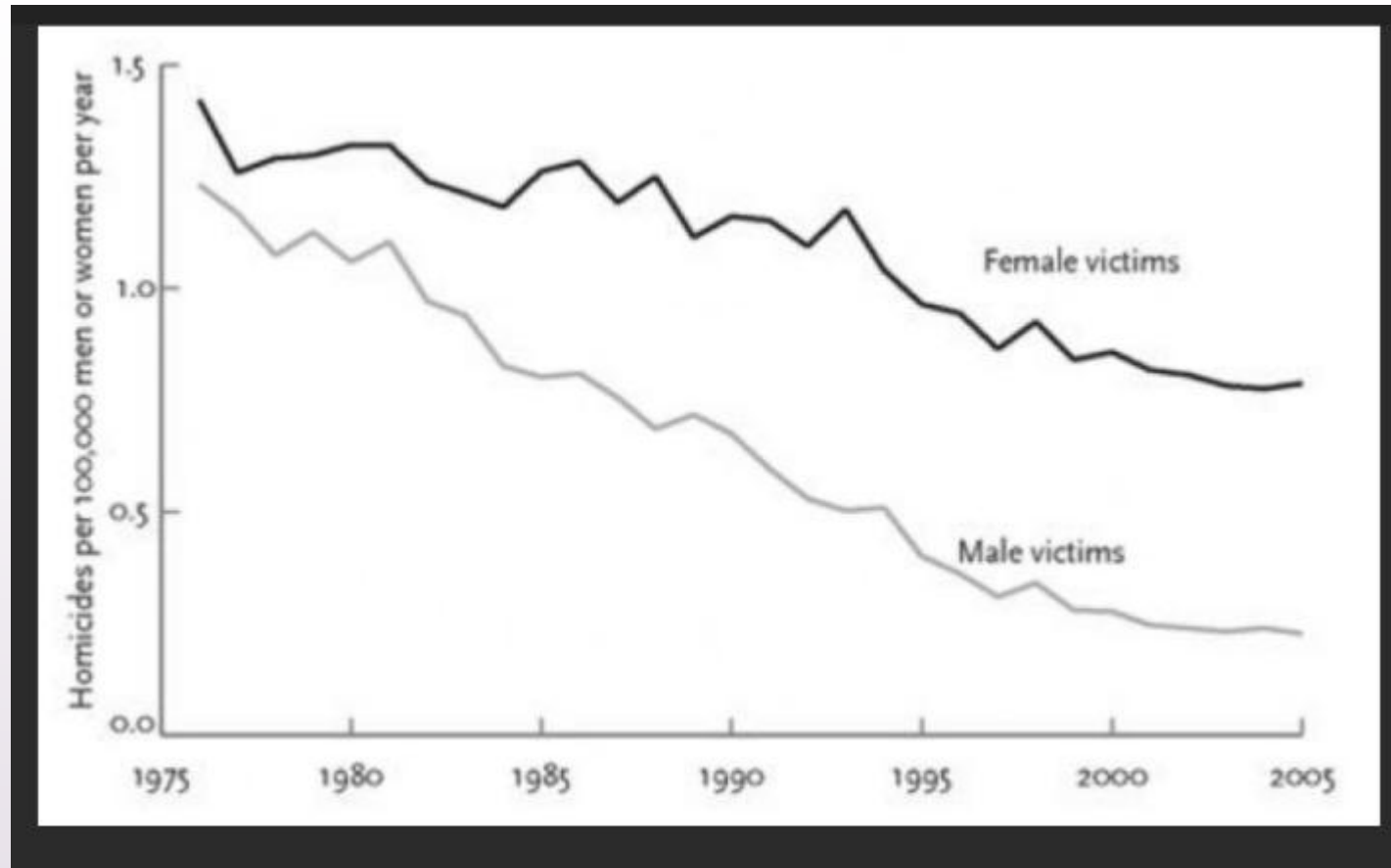
1977 - State's first shelter was established in Anchorage - followed by Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, Nome, Bethel, Kodiak, and Ketchikan.

1980 – Formed the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault – Non-profit membership organization made up of direct service providers.

1981- In Alaska, general funds for shelters increased to 1.8 million and the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault was formed – first statutory purpose - create, support and maintain direct service providers across the state to assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

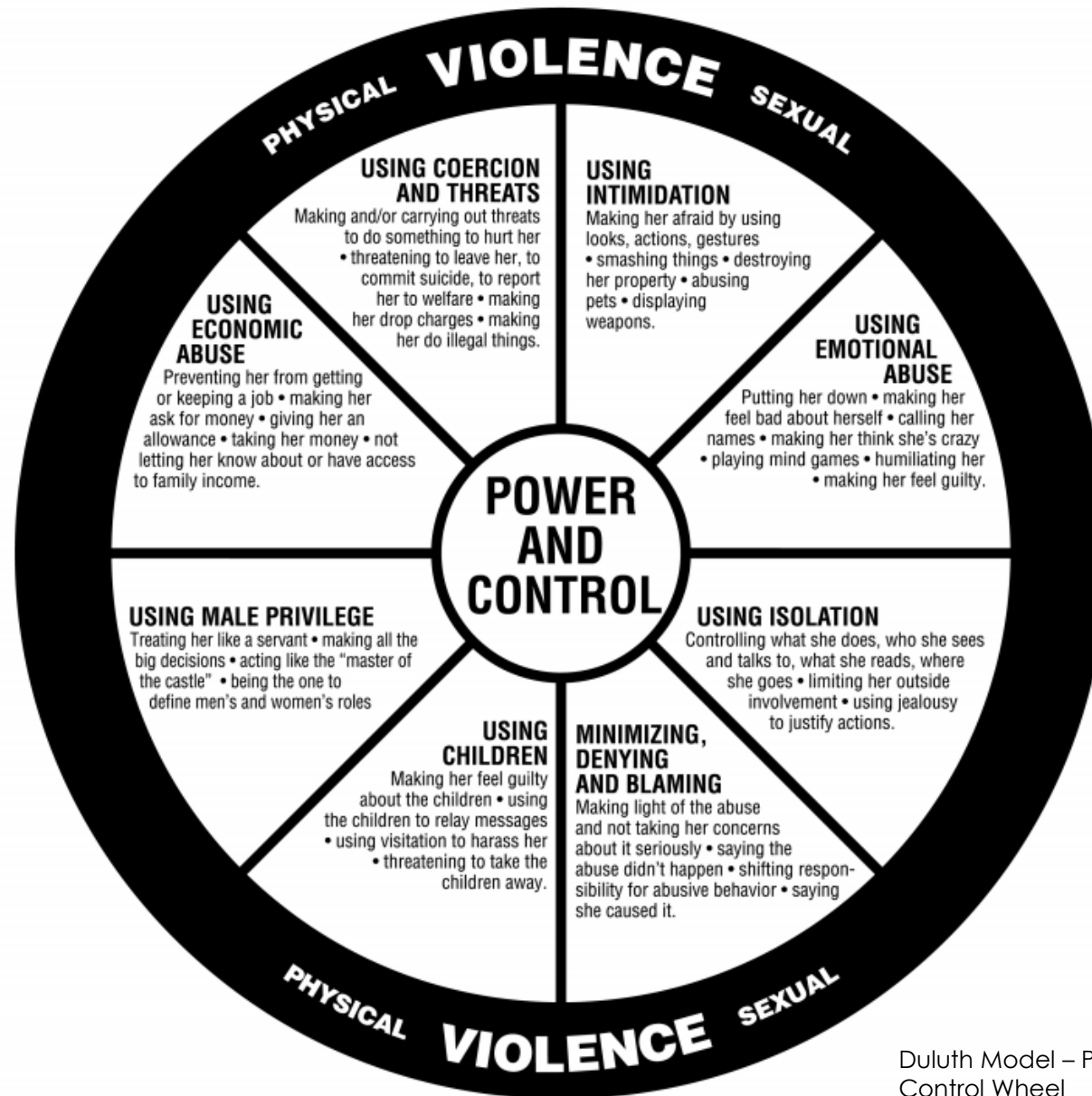
Mid 1990's – Criminalization of DV, Mandatory arrest laws, and passage of first Violence Against Women act in Congress.

Why Safe Shelter and Supports –



These programs are a **response** to the violence and an attempt to prevent further injury and death

Not all Domestic Violence is a criminal act -



Duluth Model – Power and Control Wheel

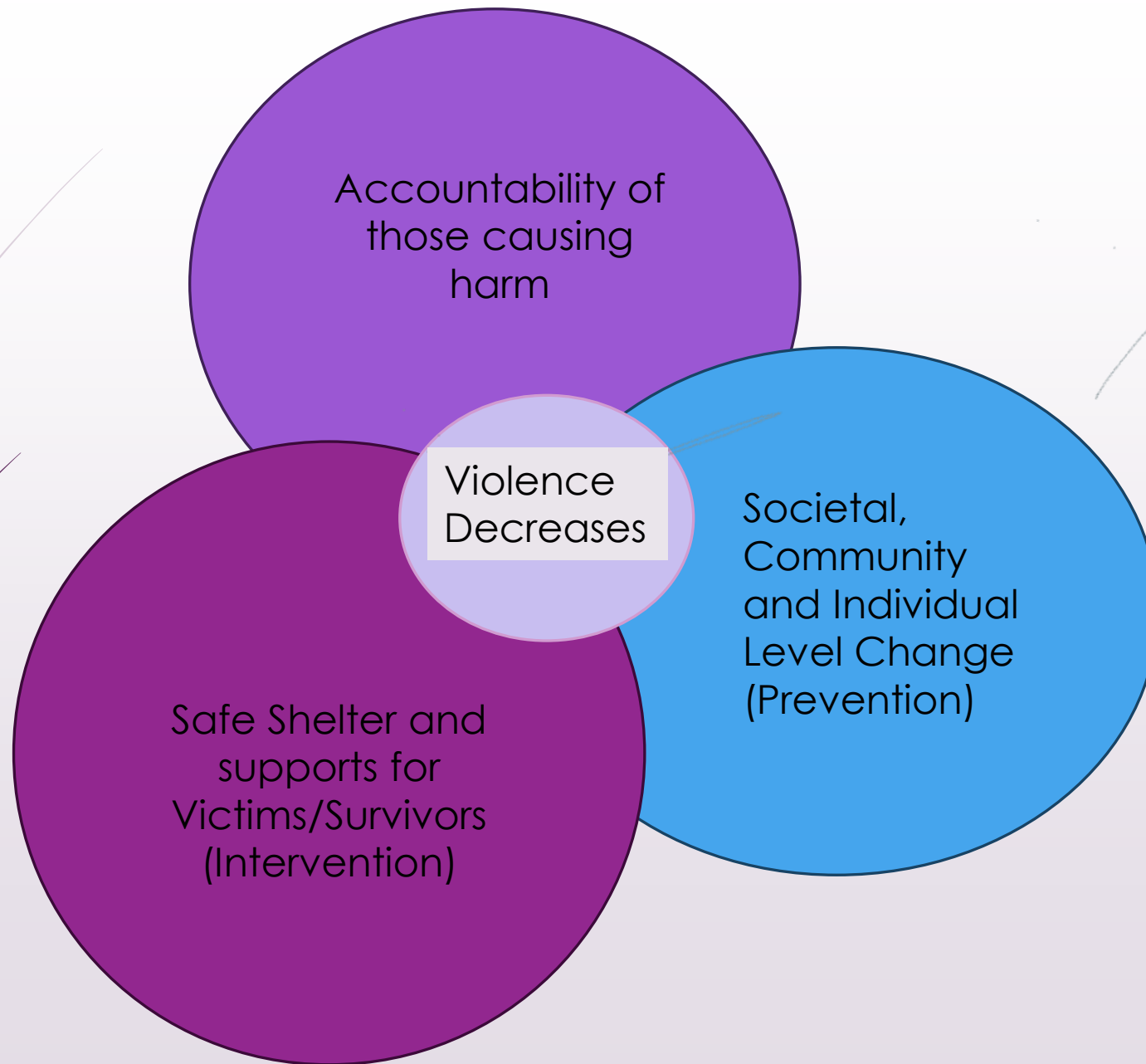


Among adult Alaskan women who experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Sexual Assault (SA) or Stalking in their lifetimes:

29.4% talked to the police about at least one of their experiences.

70.6% Did not talk to the police about any of the IPV, SA or Stalking that happened in their lifetime

Service Receipt among Alaskan Women who Experienced IPV, SA, or Stalking Sept 2024



Changes Over Time: 2010 - 2020

The following table shows how the 2020 lifetime and past year estimates of women's experiences with violence compared to the 2010 and 2015 estimates.

Table 2. Past year and lifetime intimate partner and sexual violence victim experiences changes over time (2010-2020).



| Type of Violence | Lifetime (%) | | | Past Year (%) | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 |
| Intimate partner violence (composite) | 47.6 | 40.4 | 48.0 | 9.4 | 6.4 | 6.9 |
| Threats of physical violence | 31.0 | 25.6 | 28.5 | 5.8 | 3.0 | 2.6 |
| Physical violence | 44.8 | 39.6 | 46.8 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 6.5 |
| Sexual violence (composite) | 37.1 | 33.1 | 40.5 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 3.4 |
| Alcohol- or drug-involved sexual assault | 26.8 | 22.6 | 27.5 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Forcible sexual assault | 25.6 | 23.5 | 27.7 | 2.5 | 1.6 | 2.2 |
| IPV, SV, or both (composite) | 58.6 | 50.3 | 57.7 | 11.8 | 8.1 | 8.1 |

Network of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Programs (Intervention)

**24 Providers of
Safe Shelter and
supports**

ANCHORAGE Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)
Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)
BETHEL Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC)
CORDOVA Cordova Family Resource Center (CFRC)
CRAIG Helping Ourselves Prevent Emergencies (HOPE)
DILLINGHAM Safe and Fear-Free Environment (SAFE)
EMMONAK Emmonak Woman's Shelter (EWS)
FAIRBANKS Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living (IAC)
HOMER South Peninsula Haven House (SPHH)
HOOPER BAY Bay Haven
HAINES Becky's Place
JUNEAU AWARE
KENAI/SOLDOTNA The LeeShore Center
KETCHIKAN Women in Safe Homes (WISH)
KODIAK Kodiak Women's Resource & Crisis Center (KWRCC)
KOTZEBUE Maniilaq Family Crisis Center (MFCC)
NOME Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG)
PALMER/WASILLA Alaska Family Services
PETERSBURG Working Against Violence for Everyone (WAVE)
SEWARD SeaView Community Services
SITKA Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV)
UNALASKA Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence (USAFV)
UTQIAGVIK Arctic Women in Crisis (AWIC)
VALDEZ - Advocates for Victims of Violence (AVV)





Intervention

DV/SA Victim Crisis Services

- Emergency food, shelter, clothing, and transportation
- Safety planning
- Assistance with protective orders
- Individual/group counseling and peer support
- Referral to local services
- Legal aid, advocacy, case management
- Transportation, childcare, job training, employment services and financial planning to allow for economic independence
- Parenting classes
- Homelessness prevention
- Sexual Assault Response Training (SART)
- Emergency Hotline

STAR's Services

Crisis Line

- 1-800-478-8999
- Available 24/7
- 365 days a year



Advocacy

- Crisis intervention
- Long term support
- Counseling
- Case management



Prevention & Education

- ASD approved curricula
- Community trainings
- Outreach



All of STAR's services are *free* and *confidential*

Crisis Line

Standing as the core of our services, the STAR Crisis Line is free, confidential, and available 24/7. It's often the first lifeline for sexual assault survivors seeking help



- Covered by STAR staff members during business hours
- Volunteers cover evenings, overnights, weekends & holidays
- Reporting, resources & referrals
- Main line for communication with partners and on-call advocates

5,754

Total Crisis Line Calls

Who Calls the Crisis Line?



- Survivors & Loved Ones
- Individuals Needing Resources & Support
- Existing/Potential Clients
- Law Enforcement
- Forensic Nurses
- Community Organizations
- Advocates/STAR Staff

What is a SART And how does it work



- SART Team Response
- Jane Doe (Anonymous) Reporting

Direct Services Advocacy



- **Safety Planning**
- **Legal Advocacy**
- **Counseling & Financial Assistance**
- **Resources & Referrals**
- **1:1 Support**
- **Support Through Reporting Process**
- **Emergency Financial Assistance**

Direct Services

Advocacy Data FY24



- **16,544 Individual Advocacy Services**
- **439 On Scene Crisis Response (SART, AVR, ER)***
- **901 One-on-One Appointments**
- **542 Total Clients Served**

*SART: Sexual Assault Response Team

AVR: Anonymous Victim Reports

ER: Emergency Room Callouts

Direct Services

Advocacy Data FY24



- **3,557 Advocacy Phone Services**
- **2,872 SART Call-Out Hours**
- **1,802 One-on-One Hours**
- **93 Clients Received Counseling**
- **1,229 Counseling Sessions Provided**
- **1,685 Criminal & Civil Advocacy Services**

LEGAL ADVOCACY IN A DUAL PROGRAM – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE

Rebecca Shields, KWRCC

CIVIL LEGAL ADVOCACY

Emergency Restraining orders

Long Term Restraining orders

Safety planning

Systems Advocacy (housing, food, immediate needs)

Referrals to Legal Assistance for Child Custody,
Immigration law, etc.

Assist and accompany as needed in what ever civil
proceeding are necessary.

(we do not give legal advice).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGAL ADVOCACY

SART Team

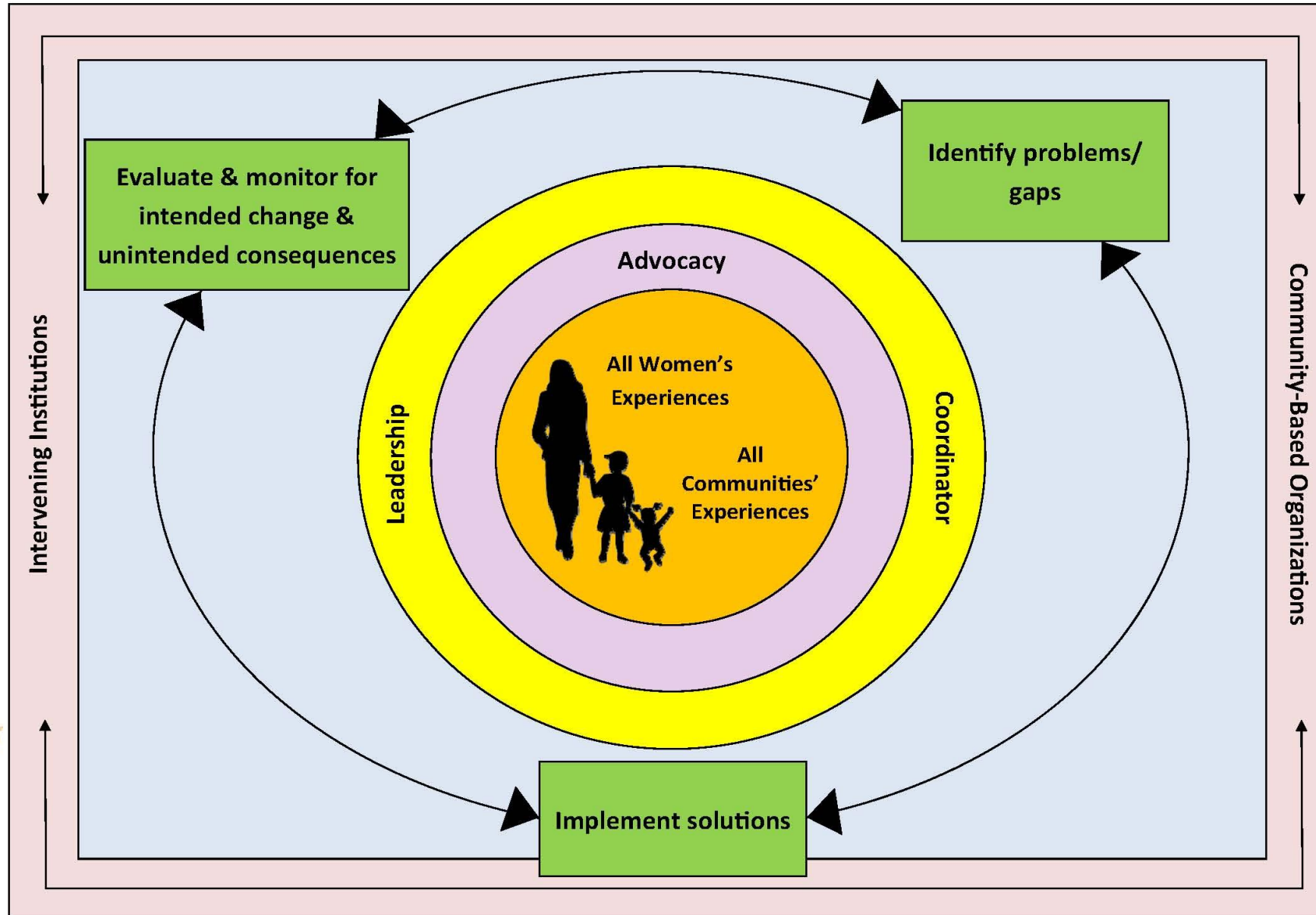
CCR Team

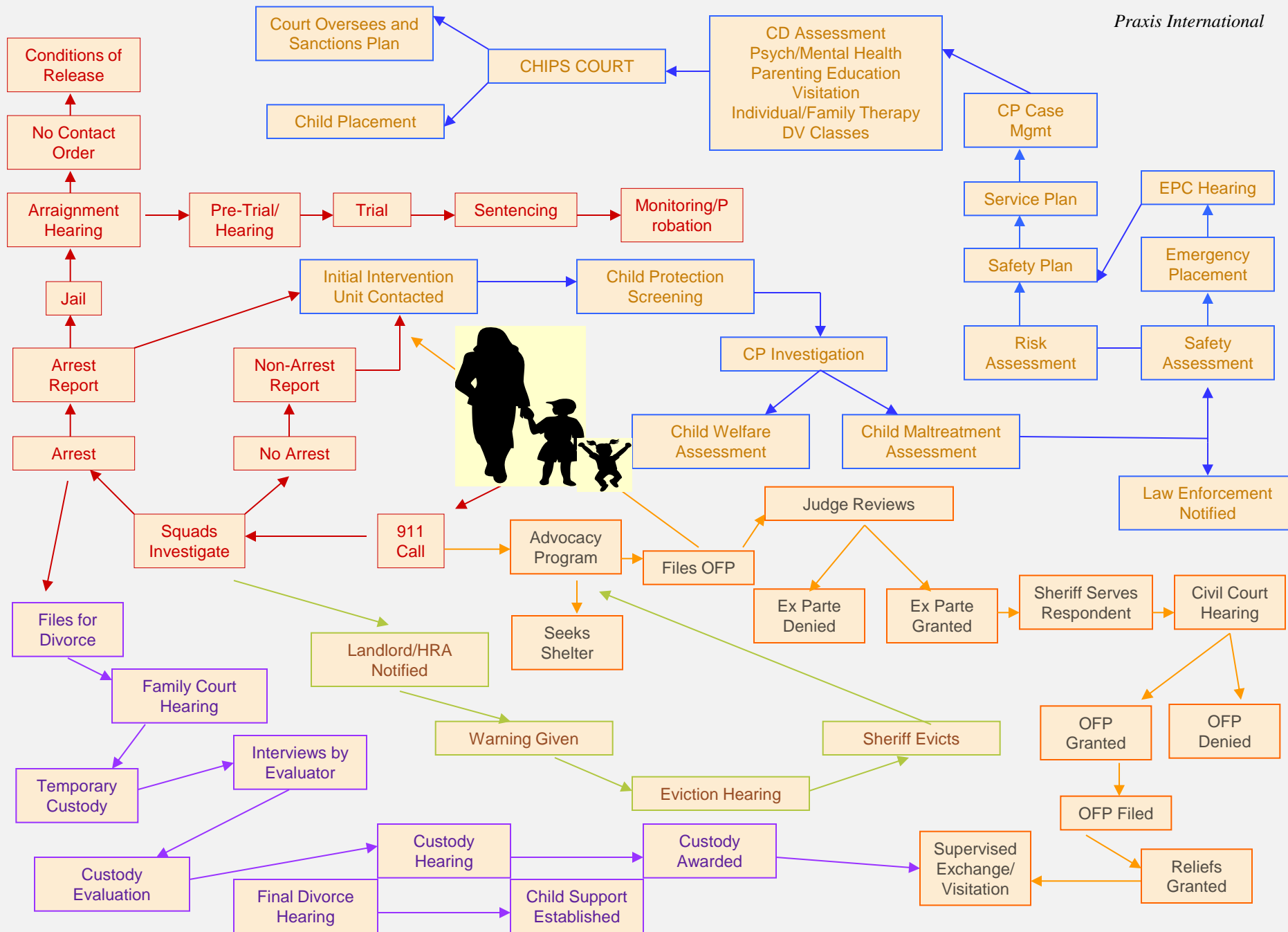
Teams members consist of...

Law Enforcement – Medical Response- Advocate

VICTIM Centered Response

The Work of Coordinating Interagency Responses to Violence Against Women





ROLE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE

- Victim Centered. - whole purpose is to support victim and help navigate system.
- Victim Advocate stays with the victim through out the life of the case and beyond. Advocate will continue to support and serve for as long as the Victims needs that support.
- Victim Advocate stays focused on Safety of Victim through out the process. Provides consistent safety planning. Provides support for all of the other ongoing needs of the victim such helping with housing, food, organizing other appointments and considerations victims need to attend to.

WHEN A CRIMINAL CASE IS OVER

- Judge's role is finished
- District Attorney's role is finished
- Jury is dismissed
- Law Enforcement has completed investigation no longer involved until new situation arises.
- All Court ordered Conditions of release are dismantled

VICTIM/LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICES SAVE LIVES!

- So what remains....
- Civil Restraining order and...
- Victim Services and Advocates
- We are there for as long as they need us!



- Thank you!!



Tundra Women's Coalition



A short history...

- 1767 Wife-beating is legal, “The Rule of Thumb”
- 1871 Alabama and Massachusetts are the first to declare wife-beating illegal.
- 1970-1971: First women’s shelter opens in England and first rape crisis center opens in the United States
- 1978 TWC opens along with over 250 shelters throughout the United States (will soon be 50)



Classic Services

- Emergency Shelter: 325+ unduplicated people a year for 10,000+ shelter nights
- Transitional Housing: 15+ unduplicated people a year for 4000+ transitional housing nights
- Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) response to sexual violence: 60+ responses a year; 200+youth seen at the CAC
- Legal Advocacy: 140+ people assisted with P.O.s, VCCB, court accompaniment, etc.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) MDT

- Expanded through Telesafe into three of five sub regional communities
- Trained Tribal Victim Advocates
- Began an Advocate Initiated Response (AIR)
- Trained advocates on response to strangulation
- STAR Clinic Exam Room #2





Classic Services

- Children's Program
- Teens Acting Against Violence (TAAV)



Housing Options for Survivors



Atsaq Place
Tundra Youth Home
Stabilization Vouchers





Thrift
Store:

Out of debt
and in the
black!





- Emergency shelter for 17 women and 24 children
- Transitional housing for three women and six children,
- Three non-resident adults with three children were helped with housing vouchers
- One survivor of sexual assault got updates on her legal case from staff
- Eight youth attended TAAV
- 28 Cases were reviewed by MDT members at the CAC case review.
- A SART call out happened at 5
- Local Law enforcement dropped off a mom with a baby at the shelter around 11:00 pm
- And 12 full-time staff came to work, eight of whom are survivors of interpersonal violence.

A Snapshot: April 7th, 2024 from
Midnight to Midnight

Quyana!

TWC:

1-800-478-7788


907-543-3444

907-543-3456

(crisis line)

twc@twcpeace.org





**Thank you for your commitment
to ensuring support services for
those harmed by domestic and
sexual violence in Alaska are
available throughout our great
state.**