

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
COMMISSION**

**FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
JUNE 2013**

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DEDICATION

The Domestic Violence Commission dedicates this report to the Honorable Lydia Gardner, Clerk of the Courts of Orange County, who worked tirelessly to improve services to community members impacted by domestic violence.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of several tragic cases occurring over the last several years in Orange County, Florida, Mayor Teresa Jacobs, Honorable Belvin Perry, Jr., Chief Judge, and Honorable Lydia Gardner, Clerk of the Courts of Orange County reconvened the Domestic Violence Commission in February 2013. The Commission was co-chaired by the Honorable Alice Blackwell, Circuit Judge with the Ninth Judicial Circuit, and Mr. Dick J. Batchelor, President of Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc. Commission members were comprised of elected officials in Orange County, criminal justice stakeholders, and community leaders/advocates who had expertise in the field of domestic violence. Over 70 individuals representing a diverse spectrum of the community, as well as survivors, participated at the work group level, providing valuable input into the overall recommendations.

The Commission was divided into six (6) work groups, which were charged with reviewing various components and systems that deal with domestic violence. On average, each work group had three to four meetings to discuss and research information that would help them achieve their goals. The work groups were as follows:

- 9-1-1 to Arrest – Major Mike McKinley, Orange County Sheriff’s Office, Chair
- Arrest to First Appearance – Carol Wick, CEO, Harbor House, Chair
- First Appearance to Charging Decision – Honorable Jeff Ashton, State Attorney, Chair
- Charging Decision to Sentencing – Honorable Alice Blackwell, Circuit Judge, Chair
- Post Sentencing – Dr. Jill Hobbs, Orange County Corrections, Chair
- Juvenile – Gerard Glynn, Esquire, Dubois Law Group, Chair

Each work group had one key item that they deemed to be a major issue which would require funding and resources to accomplish. Education and training is a common theme among all the work groups. Also, a few of the work groups recommend that a Unified Family Court be developed or a Family Justice Center similar to the Family Justice Center in Tampa, Florida. This would be a one-stop-shop for domestic violence victims. A team of people would be able to help with many services for victims and their families.

Enhancing the safety of individuals involved in domestic violence involves the courts, law enforcement officers, policy makers and domestic violence service providers and advocates coming together to find solutions to ending domestic violence in our community. Public testimony was also solicited by the Commission members and approximately ten to fifteen speakers provided their accounts, experiences and system improvement recommendations to the Commission. For example, in light of the growing domestic violence reports in the Haitian community in Orange County, the following two recommendations were suggested:

- 1) Having a Haitian-Creole speaking trained professional domestic violence advocate in each department or have one Haitian-Creole speaking advocate that can represent the Haitian clients from each department (an outreach trained person).
- 2) Partner or sponsor a Haitian-Creole organization or trained individual providing educational domestic violence awareness events in the Haitian community.

Each subcommittee categorized their recommendations into three priority levels, with priority level 1 being the highest priority and 3 the lowest priority. The work groups identified short term recommendations as those that are already partially in place but need improvement, those that could be implemented without large resource allocations, and/or those that could be completed within a year or less; long term recommendations require implementation of new processes, require considerable additional resources, and/or appear to be recommendations that will take several years or more for development and implementation.

The following are the work group reports with their prioritized recommendations. Please note that in this document, references to Orange County for agency responsibility does not necessarily mean Orange County Government, but is a reference to the community whether it be the government, private non-profits or other entities.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

9-1-1 TO ARREST WORK GROUP

The 9-1-1 to Arrest Work Group brought together members of the law enforcement community, as well as community stakeholders, to review and discuss how domestic violence was handled from the initial 9-1-1 call to arrest. The work group members provided honest and open feedback on how they felt domestic violence was being addressed by their agencies and law enforcement in general. Work group members began by mapping the process from 9-1-1 to arrest.

During the first two meetings, the work group members discussed how law enforcement agencies handle 9-1-1 calls related to domestic violence. After these meetings, call guidelines were collected and reviewed from the agencies participating in the work group. As a result of this review, a model domestic call guideline sheet was developed and distributed to the work group members.

The remainder of the meetings focused on law enforcement's response to domestic violence calls for service. During this review, the agencies participating provided copies of their current

domestic violence policies and procedures. The work group also reviewed the International Association of Chiefs of Police's (IACP) model policy. After a review of the agencies' policies and the IACP model policy, the differences in policies were discussed with the work group members. The work group also looked at the information provided to victims of domestic violence at the initial call for service and how to provide information to the victim that was not overwhelming. Additionally, the work group discussed the manner in which the various agencies handled domestic violence investigations. Some procedures used by the agencies were discussed in detail and incorporated into the work group's recommendations.

The 9-1-1 to Arrest Work Group spent ample hours reviewing the 9-1-1 to arrest process, and believe that the recommendations will help improve, as well as bring up-to-date law enforcement's current response and investigations into domestic violence.

ARREST TO FIRST APPEARANCE WORK GROUP

The Arrest to First Appearance Work Group members reviewed and assessed the following in developing their recommendations:

- Reviewed current Domestic Violence pamphlets for possible revisions to update information;
- Formulated and researched a process to notify victims after initial appearance;
- Reviewed perpetrator contact with the victim;
- Reviewed Pre-trial documents and/or conditions, specifically what occurs when a perpetrator contacts a victim and the Victim Information and Notification Everyday (V.I.N.E.) process;
- Assessed victim advocate organizations that can connect with victims during the process; and
- Researched diversion process efforts.

INITIAL APPEARANCE TO CHARGING DECISION WORK GROUP

The First Appearance to Charging Decision Work Group explored what the current system has in place to notify victims about the initial appearance process. The members of the work group reviewed the no contact orders. Presently, when a no contact order is rendered by the court, there is no uniform process in place to communicate the order to law enforcement. There is a need for a process to communicate the orders to assist law enforcement in providing for the safety of domestic violence victims and for the apprehension and successful prosecution of defendants who violate the orders.

Civil court should notify the State Attorney of its injunction docket. The State should have a representative present at the civil injunction hearings on cases where criminal charges are filed or under review. Often after arrest the victim seeks out an injunction through the civil court, beginning with a temporary injunction. Research was done to find out what current pre-trial diversion programs are effective and assessed the pre-trial release flow chart and conditions of release. The work group also assessed what the charging standards and policies are with regard to domestic violence and the post initial appearance activity as far as due process for the victims of domestic violence.

It has often been observed that the Civil Judge handling a dissolution of marriage in a matter that is also before the criminal court often issues orders that is inconsistent on matters of a temporary right to the marital home, rights to contact with children and the right to contact with the spouses. The Judges presiding over the criminal case and the civil injunction or dissolution matter should coordinate to assure that their orders are not conflicting.

The work group also recommends that improvements be made to the pre-trial diversion program to assure that approvals and admission to programs are as speedy as practicable, that the pre-trial diversion treatment is tailored to the needs to the defendant and the victim. Also, there needs to be a process established for early termination where conditions and treatment have been completed.

Florida Rule of Criminal Procedure 3.3.131(d)(2) requires that when a motion is filed before the court for setting or modification of bail, notice be given to the State “with at least three hours’ notice.” It is the opinion of this work group that in domestic violence cases, three hours’ notice is insufficient time to notify the victim and have them prepared and present to express their concerns on the issue. Victims regularly find out after the fact that the conditions of pre-trial release have been changed without their input and with little time to prepare to seek appropriate shelter. The State should receive at least 24 hours actual notice so that victims can be fully informed with an opportunity to be heard.

Presently, there are written procedures for notification to the State when incidences of repeat violence occur. Law enforcement agencies should implement policies that require notification to the State Attorney within 24 hours of an allegation of repeat violence or threat.

While many of those in the investigation and prosecution of domestic violence cases has developed professional relationships that result in notice of repeat violence or threat in some cases, notice is not uniformly given in all cases.

CHARGING DECISION THROUGH SENTENCING WORK GROUP

The Charging Decision through Sentencing Work Group discussed and analyzed the process of a domestic violence case through the courts, and developed short and long term recommendations for improving the system. During the first meeting, the work group members discussed each step of the court process in a misdemeanor and felony domestic violence case. The steps of the court process include the following: Arraignment, Discovery, Pre-Trial and Trial, Plea Negotiations, and Sentencing. As a result of this discussion, ten recommendations were developed. The second and third meetings were spent reviewing and condensing the recommendations.

The major issues identified by this work group include bond hearings and discovery for the victim and perpetrator, trial/plea processes, and additional support to Judges with criminal domestic violence cases.

Mandatory training on domestic violence cases should be provided for all judges who hear circuit criminal cases. To have the training be valuable, the work group recommends that Judges from other circuits in Florida conduct the training. Most importantly, the training should address understanding domestic violence as well as sentencing for domestic violence cases. At a monthly judges' meeting, provide a 10-minute training segment for Judges on how to handle "no contact" orders at Initial Appearance and bond hearings. The work group recommends that there are 10-minute domestic violence updates at Judges' meetings every four to six months.

This work group, as well as other work groups, also recommends that a one-stop-shop for domestic violence be developed. A team of people would be able to help with many services for victims and their families. For example, services provided are: support groups for adults and children; mental health and substance abuse counseling; provide food and clothing; legal assistance with child custody, divorce and immigration issues; job training; family budgeting and financial management; and assistance with transportation. The Center would also be able to provide services such as how to file an injunction, helping with relocation, and helping the victims and their children seek shelter.

POST SENTENCING WORK GROUP

The Post Sentencing Work Group analyzed phases of the process subsequent to sentencing, to include incarceration, community supervision, and victim services. Recommendations to the Commission are based on this review.

The Post Sentencing Work Group's goals were to:

- 1) Identify and add additional members to the work group
- 2) Map the Post Sentencing process
- 3) Gather statistical information
- 4) Analyze the strengths and weaknesses
- 5) Make recommendations for improvement

JUVENILE WORK GROUP

The work group was assigned the juvenile process and its interaction with domestic violence issues. The Juvenile process is a replication of almost every other work groups' process. The juvenile process includes both a delinquency system that replicates the adult criminal process and a dependency system that replicates a domestic relations and domestic violence injunction process combined. In addition, the juvenile process includes a CINS/FINS (Child in need of services/Family in need of services) system.

Thus, the juvenile work group's first meeting was to narrow the scope of the work group's discussion to permit meaningful recommendations in the time allocated. In the first meeting the group decided to focus on three main topics:

- a. Mental Health
- b. System response to intra-family violence (leaving intimate partner violence to other groups)
- c. Youth who have been taught the way to deal with intimate relationships is with violence.

One meeting was dedicated to each of these three topics. The work group reviewed issues and data on each and made preliminary recommendations. Then, a final meeting was held to review and approve recommendations.

The Juvenile Work Group, along with other work groups, recommends training. They recommend that annual training occur for juvenile court personnel, attorneys, and judges. At a minimum, the following should attend: DCF Children's Legal Services lawyers, Regional

Counsel Parents' attorneys and defense attorneys, public defenders, assistant state attorneys, deputies assigned to juvenile court, and guardians ad litem.

More law enforcement officers need to receive CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) training to assist the police called to respond to a domestic violence situation. It was reported to the work group that only 5% of the law enforcement officers in the County have CIT. This training will help officers respond to domestic violence incidents, especially those where the conflict is between a parent and child. The work group believes it is important for more officers to receive this training.

The work group feels very strongly that Orange County needs a program that can address the specific needs of children charged with domestic violence. There have been programs but the quality and consistency has been missing. There are models that have been successful in other communities, so Orange County does not need to create something new. When a program is developed, the work group concluded that it was important for the resources to be available with or without court intervention. It is also important that the resources not be limited to one population of youth.

When children are charged with domestic violence, it often involves unmet mental health needs of the child or family. Wrap-Around Orange has made great strides at meeting the needs of persons with mental illness in Orange County. However, their services need to be expanded to meet the needs of families in crisis. Some juveniles may need more substantial mental health treatment and others may not have a significant impact from the violence. However, all children exposed to violence should have an assessment. Once an assessment is done, children in the dependency system should be given services. Too often, the dependency system focuses on changing the adults' behavior without sufficient attention given to the children. This mandate would encourage the system to provide services to the children in hopes of breaking the cycle of violence.

The work group believes all the services provided should meet the standards of best practices. If the County is investing in services, those services should be able to prove effective. The County should also focus its resources where it is most needed. Thus, all funds should be tied to research indicating need and any services should be tied to research indicating effectiveness.

Although the Florida Supreme Court has mandated unified family court, it has been more difficult to implement in Orange County. The work group reviewed the Supreme Court decision and an article by Judge Judith Kreeger, 46. Fam. Ct. Rev. 331 (April 2008). There were many concerns raised about the implementation of such a court and the impact it would have on workloads for many of the professional participants. However, the majority of the work group recommends that Orange County implement a unified family court in which one judge can hear all the various legal proceedings involving one family, including domestic violence, divorce, dependency and delinquency, especially in those cases involving domestic violence. The

majority of the work group believed that this system would lead to better and more consistent decisions and less confusion for the parties involved.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE COMMISSION

The Commission developed recommendations for improvement in services to those in our community who are impacted by domestic violence. These recommendations were divided into five discrete topics: sharing of information, process improvement, data system improvement, education, and additional recommendations that did not fall within one of the four prior categories.

Further, the Commission prioritized the recommendations in two ways. First, the Commission ranked the priority of each recommendation on a scale of 1 to 3, with 1 being the highest priority, 2 being a second tier of priority, and 3 being the lowest priority. This ranking, however, does not indicate that the Commission is not committed to each recommendation. Rather, this ranking represents the priorities which are most urgent *and* those priorities which can be most easily and inexpensively implemented.

Further, the Commission assessed whether the recommendation could be implemented in the short term or long term. Those recommendations which do not require the expenditure of substantial funds or a substantial effort to implement were assigned a short-term priority by the Commission. Long term recommendations will require the allocation of substantial resources in terms of money or planning.

Finally, the Commission assigned each recommendation to an agency for implementation. This assignment will be used in the next phase of this process as a way to ensure that an agency is taking responsibility for each recommendation. The Commission envisions that this assignment of Agency Responsibility will not necessarily indicate that the agency assigned will take sole responsibility for implementation and funding, but rather that the agency assigned will take primary responsibility for leadership as to that recommendation.

Sharing of Information Recommendations

Recommendation	Priority	Short/Long Term	Agency Responsibility
Review and consider the Orlando Police Department's policy and practice on domestic violence response teams.	1	Short	All law enforcement agencies
Ensure victims have immediate access to pre-trial release information electronically by implementing a notification system of pre-trial conditions.	1	Short	Clerk's Office, State Attorney's Office (SAO), Corrections
Insert First Appearance information in the victim witness pamphlets handed out by Law Enforcement and ensure all pamphlets are consistent across municipalities.	1	Short	Law Enforcement, Harbor House
No contact orders must be accessible to Law Enforcement.	1	Short	Clerk of Court
Civil court should notify the State Attorney of its injunction docket.	3	Short	Judiciary
Judges presiding over the criminal case and the civil injunction or dissolution matter should coordinate to assure that their orders are not conflicting.	2	Short	Judiciary
Ensure that defendants are provided copies of the court orders in the various stages of the process, to include upon sentencing and upon release from custody, to ensure notification of sentence/probation requirements.	2	Short	Clerk's office with Public Defenders assistance. <i>(Defendants need to receive copies at multiple points of interaction.)</i>
Ensure that victims are kept informed of case status, to include court dates, no contact orders, and conditions of probation.	1	Short	Clerk's office, SAO, Probation and Victim Advocates
A centralized, but secure, victim information line needs to be implemented. A victim's contact information often changes, frequently in an effort to evade the defendant. There needs to be a centralized method for these changes to be submitted by the victim and obtained by the various providers within the system (victim advocates, probation officers, etc.) in a manner that will ensure victim safety and confidentiality.	1	Long	Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS) & Clerk's office <i>(Could request funding from Grant – would need a good grant writer to submit for grant)</i>

Process Improvement Recommendations

Recommendation	Priority	Short/Long Term	Agency Responsibility
Agency communication centers should review call taking guidelines with regard to domestic violence.	1	Short	Law enforcement agencies with communication centers
If an agency's communication center does not have call taking guidelines that specifically address domestic violence calls for service, consider developing domestic violence call taking guidelines, or using one developed by the 9-1-1 to Arrest Work Group.	1	Short	Law enforcement agencies with communication centers
Review handout developed by the State Attorney's Office that provides answers to questions many domestic violence victims have about what happens after the arrest and prior to first appearance. Consider incorporating this information into victim's rights pamphlet or distribute as separate handout.	1	Short	All law enforcement agencies
Allow remote testimony when needed.	1	Short	SAO, Clerk's Office, Harbor House and Court Admin
Provide Harbor House advocates to work with every survivor throughout the criminal process (from 911 call through probation).	1	Short	Harbor House, Orange County
Allow filing of injunction and probation violations outside the courthouse with Harbor House advocates.	2	Short	Harbor House, Court Administration, Clerk's Office
Ensure victim address confidentiality throughout the process.	1	Short	SAO, Law Enforcement, Harbor House
Standardization of practices and protocol across all municipalities.	1	Long	All Agencies
The State should have a representative present at civil injunction hearings on cases where criminal charges are filed or under review.	1	Long	State Attorney
Improvements to Pre-trial Diversion Program.	2	Short	State Attorney
Judges should expand the notice	3	Short	Judiciary

requirements for pre-trial release hearings to require the State receive at least 24 hours actual notice so that victims can be fully informed with an opportunity to be heard.			
Victim Advocates – There is a need for additional victim advocates. Advocates need to be with the victims throughout the process, from the time the incident happens to sentencing, as well as through any jail term or probation. The Invest Program should be expanded. It is important for the victim to have early contact with an advocate and to understand each step of the court process.	2	Long	Harbor House, State Attorney’s Office, Victim Service Center (advocate currently attend felony VOP sentencing but not necessarily at <i>(advocate currently attend felony VOP sentencing but not necessarily at misdemeanor DV sentencing)</i>)
Address language barriers that exist for domestic violence victims and perpetrators. Specifically, materials should be developed that can be easily used by non-English speaking groups, and there should be access to interpreters for use by victim advocates.	1	Short	Law Enforcement Agencies, Clerk’s Office, Victim Advocate Agencies
Ensure Batters Intervention Program (BIP) is ordered as a condition of probation. All defendants sentenced to probation should be ordered to participate in and complete a BIP assessment and program as appropriate, with court ordered timeframes for enrollment and completion.	2	Short	Judiciary – possibly an administrative order/directive from DV Commission
Identification and implementation of appropriate programs for jail inmates who will not be participating in BIPs after release. (It is believed that participation in BIP’s while in secure custody is not appropriate or meaningful.) Programs conducive for implementation in the jail environment and appropriate, given the inmate’s length of stay, often short, need to be identified and implemented (Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who	2	Short	Orange County Corrections Department (OCCD) work with provider – No Abuse/Judiciary <i>(tie in credit for time served with initial sentencing with Public Defender support)</i>

Batter was identified for further review).			
Juvenile Court judges in delinquency need to use the power of the court to require parents or legal custodians to participate in counseling or other appropriate services (i.e. parenting classes, Wrap Around Orange) when there is violence in the home.	2	Short	Judges (The Workgroup was divided as to whether judges can impose this without State Attorney petitioning.)
Orange County needs to have a unified family court that involves one judge – one family when there is domestic violence, divorce, paternity, dependency or delinquency co-occurring in the family.	2	Long	Judges, Court Administration and Orange County Clerk’s Office
<p>DCF Case Plans in dependency cases involving domestic violence should always include the following responsibilities for the Case Manager or Department:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An assessment of the impact of the violence on the children. There are model assessment tools such as: <i>Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment</i>— http://www.praedfoundation.org/CANS-MH%20Form.pdf; <i>Child Welfare Trauma Referral Tool</i>— http://www.nctsnet.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/cwt3_sho_referral.pdf; <i>Traumatic Events Screening Inventory for Children</i>— http://www.ptsd.va.gov/PTSD/professional/pages/assessments/assessment-pdf/TESE-C.pdf; <i>Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children</i>— http://www.johnbriere.com/tsc.c.htm; <i>Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children</i>— http://www.johnbriere.com/tsc 	1	Short	DCF in cooperation with CBC of Central Florida and DCF Children’s Legal Service

<p>yc.htm; <i>University of California at Los Angeles Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index</i>— http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/; and</p> <p>2. Training or treatment for the children who have witnessed domestic violence if the assessment indicates a need.</p>			
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Data System Improvement Recommendations

Recommendation	Priority	Short / Long Term	Agency Responsibility
Tracking of all data related to domestic violence cases by type/offender/location in all county-wide systems to ensure cases can be cross referenced and shared.	1	Long	Corrections, Law Enforcement, Court Administration, SAO, Harbor House, UCF, Clerk's Office
Standardization of GPS in all DV cases for pre-trial release and modeled after the civil GPS program and supervised by Law Enforcement. Continuation of Civil GPS.	2	Long	Court Admin, Corrections, Law Enforcement
Develop information line for victims to get access to other agencies, such as the State Attorney's Office, financial assistance, and Clerk's Office.	1	Long	Orange County
Clearinghouse for victim information – Updating victim information, as being able to reach the victim throughout the process is critical, but would need to figure out how to manage the clearinghouse so that the information is confidential and secure.	1	Long	Orange County
Better identification of a domestic violence case in local data systems by expanding criteria to identify domestic violence cases. System-wide mechanisms are needed to ensure quick and consistent identification of domestic violence cases in various organizations' data systems.	3	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Justice/Public Safety Coordinating Council (CJ/PSCC) to review DV criteria specified in 741.28 • ICJIS committee

			to implement a clear flag to identify DV cases in all data systems & paperwork used locally in the Criminal Justice System.
Integrate data systems state-wide to allow for data sharing of vital information and information changes to enhance defendant accountability and victim safety.	1	Long	Legislative initiative

Education Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Short/Long Term	Agency Responsibility
Ensure agency personnel that handle domestic violence calls for service, or investigations, are provided regular training on domestic violence. Training should include input from the State Attorney's Office, as well as community resources such as the Harbor House, to ensure law enforcement agencies are aware of any problems these entities are noticing in how law enforcement is responding to domestic violence.	1	Short/Long	All law enforcement agencies
Review stalking and dating violence policies and provide frequent training to law enforcement personnel. (This was a matter brought up on several occasions during the public meeting on April 2, 2013.)	1	Short/Long	All law enforcement agencies
Update the bench book for judges with statutes regarding domestic violence and first appearance.	3	Long	Courts and DV Commission
Ongoing training for law enforcement, judges, animal service officers and other personnel annually on domestic violence. Training should be required for all assistant state attorneys and public defenders who work with domestic violence cases. Mandatory training on	1	Short	All agencies

domestic violence cases should be provided for all judges who hear circuit criminal cases. The training should address understanding domestic violence as well as sentencing for domestic violence cases. Develop a consistent basic training outline for all participants, and then add-on a portion specific to each organization's needs.			
Monitor paid staff contact with victims and require mandatory training in trauma informed care and domestic violence.	2	Ongoing	All agencies
Education for Offenders: Information regarding court requirements needs to be provided to offenders in a direct and consumable manner.	2	Short	OCCD – Jail and Probation Unit
Education for Victims: The various system components need to combine efforts to ensure information regarding available resources is provided to victims in a consistent manner as well as exploring alternative methods to deliver this information.	2	Short	Victim Advocates with SAO, Harbor House and Victim Service Center to combine efforts Victim Service Coalition to explore possible locations and develop coordinated staffing (Obtain space in courthouse to provide full time access for victims to be staffed on a rotation basis by Harbor House and Victim Service Center.)
Education to the Community: Efforts are needed to educate the community as a whole on the nature of domestic violence, to include identifiers of domestic violence activity and resources available for assistance.	2	Short	Domestic Violence Commission and Domestic Violence Task Force
There should be at least annual domestic violence training for juvenile court personnel, especially the attorneys and			Judges under

judges. At a minimum, the following should attend: DCF Children’s Legal Services lawyers, Regional Counsel parents’ attorneys and defense attorneys, public defenders, assistant state attorneys, sheriff deputies assigned juvenile court, guardians ad litem, dependency and delinquency judges amongst others.	2	Short	leadership of Chief Judge Perry
More law enforcement officers need to receive CIT training to assist the police called to respond to domestic violence situation. The County should create incentives to encourage more officers to participate.	1	Short	Law Enforcement Leadership (Sheriff and Chiefs of Police)
Create standards based on best practices for judges at First Appearance in regard to No Contact orders, Pre-Trial Release and ROR.	1	Short	Court Administration

Additional Recommendations

Recommendations	Priority	Short/Long Term	Agency Responsibility
Agencies should review their policies and procedures related to domestic violence to ensure they are up to date and following best practices. Each agency was provided a copy of the International Association of Chiefs of Police’s model policy.	1	Short	All law enforcement agencies
Review all domestic violence literature to ensure it is up to date with correct referral information, such as for the Harbor House; to include Harbor House’s web site.	1	Short	All law enforcement agencies
Provide parking validation for victims at the courthouse.	2	Long	City of Orlando
Create a separate holding cell for offenders prior to First Appearance with no access to telephones.	1	Short	Corrections
Recommend updates to Florida statute to allow prosecution of those in jail when no contact orders have been violated when they call the victim from jail.	2	Long	Legislative initiative, DV Commission, Local Legislation Delegation, Task

			Force
Florida statute change to protect victims of domestic violence from having their addresses released into public record similar to victims of sexual assault.	2	Long	Legislative initiative, DV Commission, Local Legislation Delegation, Task Force
Family court building.	3	Long	Court Admin, Orange County
Create or retain specialized units in Law Enforcement, Courts and State's Attorney office.	2	Long	Law Enforcement, Court Admin, SAO
Establishment of a team that ensures accountability of recommendations made and monitors prosecutions on a quarterly basis and recommends changes. This team will ensure benchmarks are established and met.	1	Short	DV Commission
A separate subcommittee for Marketing and Public Notices might be beneficial.	2	Short	Domestic Violence Task Force, Victim Services Task Force
Develop a Family Justice Center similar to the Family Justice Center in Tampa, Florida. This is a one-stop-shop for domestic violence victims. A team of people would be able to help with many services for victims and their families. Could approach local agencies for expansion of their facility.	1	Long	Orange County
It is recommended that the data sharing issues be discussed with the ICJIS (Integrated Criminal Justice Information System) committee	2	Long	ICJIS
The existing 26 week adult batterers' intervention course is not appropriate for children and should not be used for children who have been accused of domestic violence.	N/A	N/A	This is not a problem. It is not being used. The work group stated this to avoid any confusion regarding our need for a child specific program

<p>*The County¹ needs to fund a batterers' intervention program designed specifically for children who are accused of domestic violence which may include dating violence, child on parent violence, or sibling on sibling violence. Some possible models to bring to Orange County include: St. Paul, MN – 180 degree program www.180degrees.org/juvenile-services.php; Palm Beach – http://pbcgov.com/publicsafety/justiceservices/juveniledomesticviolence.htm; STRYVE – http://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/stryve/about_stryve.html;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This child specific batterers' intervention program should be available for CINS/FINS, delinquency or dependency court referrals as part of a diversion or disposition.² 2. This child specific batterers' intervention program should also be available for community referral on a sliding cost scale without any court intervention. 	1	Long	Orange County (possibly specifically Orange County Mental Health) with cooperation with DJJ DCF and CBC of Central Florida.
<p>*This child specific batterers' intervention program needs to be part of a continuum of services available to meet the specific needs of families dealing with violence in the home amongst the adults or from a child.</p>	1	Long	Orange County (possibly, specifically Orange County Mental Health) with cooperation with DJJ, DCF and CBC of Central Florida.
<p>The County should do an assessment of why parents are not accessing services. (i.e. Is it because families do not have</p>	3	Long	Orange County in partnership with UCF

*There are several mental health treatment priorities that are recommended. We see them as part of an overall continuum of care in the community. The top priority is building this continuum. It is difficult to say which one should come first. They all are very important to begin to build.

¹ In this document references to the County does not necessarily mean Orange County Government but is a reference to the community whether it be the government, private non-profits or other entity.

² Funding restrictions often prevent programs from accepting youth from multiple sources. The Commission is recommending that programs need to find ways around these barriers to meet the needs of the youth.

access to appropriate services?; because they lack insurance or insurance will not cover these expenses or is it because services are missing in the community?; they are in an abusive relationship themselves?; or some other reason?)			
*The County needs to fund specific treatment programs for children who have witnessed violence in the home whether or not the family is involved with juvenile court. Some possible models to bring to Orange County include: Jacksonville, FL – Hark Program; Boston, MA Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP) http://www.childwitnessstoviolence.org/index.html	1	Long	Orange County (possibly specifically Orange County Mental Health) with cooperation from State Attorney Victims’ Advocates Office, DJJ, DCF and CBC of Central Florida.
*Much of the domestic violence in families that come to juvenile court involves unmet mental health needs of either the parents and/or the children in the home. Wrap Around Orange provides some services to family in crisis however their services need to be expanded to meet the continuum of needs. It is recommended Wrap Around Orange make the following changes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The criteria for children who are violent who qualify for services need to be expanded to the age of 18; 2. Establish a mobile crisis unit to respond to emergency mental health needs of children in a violent home; and 3. There needs to be more publicity through formal media and informal networks about the availability of services. 	1	Short	Orange County
Orange County Public Schools need to be integrated into juvenile domestic violence interventions or assessments to ensure that children are receiving information and access to services in the Schools.	2	Long	Orange County Public Schools in cooperation with Orange County, DJJ, DCF and CBC of Central Florida.

<p>The County should seek funding to do a long term study on the impact of children raised in a violent home. (Such as: Do these children have violent relationships as adults? What interventions, if any, prevent or reduce the repeating of violence as adults?)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Long</p>	<p>Orange County in Partnership with UCF</p>
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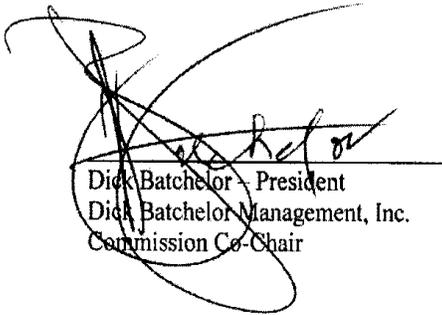
A CHALLENGE TO COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Every year in Orange County thousands of people are victimized by domestic violence. In 2012, there were 8,086 *reported* domestic violence offenses in Orange County. Too many children are scarred by domestic violence. Too many lives have been lost to these violent acts of power and control.

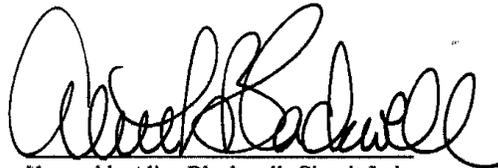
We must continue to ensure that victims are provided with the resources, programs and services necessary to assist them through the process of regaining control over their lives. We must make programs available to educate, rehabilitate and, when appropriate, punish those who commit domestic violence. We must protect children from the terrible effects of witnessing domestic violence in their homes. Education regarding domestic violence is a crucial part of the process, not only for the victims and perpetrators, but for judges, attorneys, law enforcement, and all agencies involved in domestic violence. We must bring all of our efforts together to address this formidable problem.

Domestic violence is a community-wide issue; it has no boundaries, and is not limited to any socioeconomic or ethnic group or class. We must find ways to provide the resources to prevent, intervene, and eliminate this abuse. We cannot tolerate such abuse, and those that are charged with such acts of violence must know that action will be taken to ensure that the violence ends.

Once again we call on our citizens of Orange County to stand united with us against domestic violence. We ask you to join us in making the community in which we live a safer place for all of our citizens.



Dick Batchelor - President
Dick Batchelor Management, Inc.
Commission Co-Chair



Honorable Alice Blackwell, Circuit Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit
Commission Co-Chair

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Domestic Violence Commission would like to express its appreciation to Ronda Robinson and Helene Welch, as well as to all of Orange County Government personnel for their dedication and support of the Commission.