



COURT PROCESS COMMITTEE

Members: Honorable Alicia Latimore (Chair) | Honorable Donald Myers | Honorable Tiffany Moore Russell | Honorable Robert Wesley | Chief Louis Quinones | Jay Corzine, Ph.D.

Recommendation No. 1: Establish a domestic violence orientation office as a centralized location to offer information, assistance, and wrap-around services to victims of domestic violence.

Context/Justification: Many victims have difficulty navigating the court system because they do not understand the legal process and face legal barriers at several stages. At all points of their court case, victims need peer assistance and support as they seek protection and independence from their abuser. Victims need a central office that would operate as a one-stop shop to obtain the various services they need throughout the process.

Action Step(s):

- Educate victims on the court process for civil and criminal domestic violence cases.
- Offer court forms and informational materials in multiple languages to include English, Spanish, Creole, and Portuguese.
- Provide a document defining frequently used terms.
- Provide interpreting services to assist with communications and completion of court paperwork.
- Provide peer assistants or case managers to assist victims in navigating the court process from beginning to end.
- Offer resources and support such as counseling, emotional support, financial assistance, housing assistance, victim compensation, and make referrals for additional resources offered by community partners.
- Offer trauma-focused evidence-based services for child survivors.
- Identify a community partner who may assist in providing a hotline service to make programs under the orientation office more robust and more accessible, especially during non-business hours and weekends.
- Offer a mobile unit to be deployed into communities to offer information, resources, and assistance to victims who lack transportation to get to the central location/hub.

Community Stakeholders:

- Community Centers/Courthouse
- Neighborhood Centers for Families
- Private sector collaborations for office space

Potential Funding Source:



- Federal, state, and local grant opportunities
- Central Florida Foundation
- Orlando Economic Partnership
- CDBG-Community Development Block Grant
- Florida Legal Services
- Private and Non-Profit Sectors
- League of Women Voters
- United Way, 211 Info Line

Recommendation No. 2: Implement a process that allows electronic transmission and receipt of injunction paperwork by the Sheriff’s Office for civil process service.

Context/Justification: There is a significant delay in serving respondents with civil injunctions due to the Sheriff’s Office’s inability to receive the process for service electronically. Currently, the Clerk of Court uses a courier to deliver injunction paperwork to the civil process office for service twice per day. This leads to a delay in the service of the process on the abuser, which potentially could expose the victim to an extended period of risk.

Action Step(s):

- Form a workgroup of criminal justice partners and related stakeholders to develop and implement a process that would allow electronic transmission and receipt of injunctions.
- Research and review how other jurisdictions have successfully implemented similar technologies.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Sheriff’s Office
- Orange County Clerk of Courts
- Information Systems & Security of corresponding agencies

Potential Funding Source:

- Federal and state grant opportunities
- Orange County Government
- Private sector & foundation funding
- League of Women Voters

Recommendation No. 3: Allow agencies and court systems to share information that will assist in locating an abuser whose whereabouts are unknown to perfect service or apprehension.



Context/Justification: There are significant gaps in the sharing of pertinent information between agencies within court systems, which allows abusers to go undetected. However, individuals may be involved in the court or law enforcement systems. It is important that the systems can share certain information with the court that would assist in locating a respondent whose whereabouts are unknown.

Action Step(s):

- Perform CLEAR and VINE checks on a regular basis to ascertain a correct address to serve the respondent if whereabouts are unknown.
- Establish a technical working group of subject matter experts and system administrators to identify available databases and data sets that identify respondent’s location information.
- Develop and adopt an Interagency Data Sharing Agreement in order for pertinent agencies and court systems to serve or apprehend respondents in a more efficient and expeditious manner.

Community Stakeholders:

- Domestic Violence Court Case Management
- Orange County Sheriff’s Office
- Legislative/Executive

Potential Funding Source:

No expected cost.

Recommendation No. 4: Establish an e-portal with the Clerk’s office to receive returns of service.

Context/Justification: Court proceedings are often continued due to untimely or no receipt of proof of service, particularly from out-of-county jurisdictions. This contributes to a waste of resources and the missed or untimely disposition of judicial proceedings.

Action Step(s):

Orange County Clerk of Courts will work with law enforcement agencies and information security systems to develop and deploy e-portal to receive returns of service.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Clerk of Courts
- Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies

Potential Funding Source:

- State and County funding



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Recommendation No. 5: Courts to notify Batterer’s Intervention Program (BIP) providers when respondents have violated conditions of release or provisions of domestic violence civil injunctions.

Context/Justification: This notification will assist BIP providers to accurately assess and report to the courts the progress made by defendants/respondents enrolled in BIP programs.

Action Step(s):

- Establish a procedure for the Court system to provide notifications of violations to BIP providers.

Community Stakeholders:

- Ninth Judicial Circuit Case Management
- Orange County Clerk of Courts
- Providers of Batterer’s Intervention Programs

Potential Funding Source:

- State and County funding



SYSTEM PROCESS COMMITTEE

Members: Michelle Sperzel (Chair) | Honorable John Mina | Honorable Monique Worrell | Chief Orlando Rolon | Lui Damiani

Recommendation No. 1: Assess and identify gaps in service for victims and perpetrators by conducting a safety and accountability audit and an accompanying mapping of the criminal and civil processes.

Context/Justification: In Orange County, we have seen an increase in domestic violence cases and a 17% increase in domestic violence-related homicides. The System Process Committee’s mission is to identify opportunities within the criminal justice system to better coordinate services to reduce the incidences of domestic violence cases, including domestic violence-related homicides.

Action Step(s):

- Designate Harbor House to lead the mapping project with a technical assistance partner.
- Identify technical assistance partner.
- Establish a workgroup of community partners to work with the technical assistance partner to create a community survey and mapping.
- Assist in disseminating a community partner survey.
- Create a procedural map based on findings from surveys and focus groups.
- Discover gaps in safety and accountability within the existing criminal justice system.

Community Stakeholders:

- Domestic Violence Service Providers
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Orange County Corrections, Pre-Trial Services Division, Probation
- Department of Children and Families
- State Attorney’s Office
- Clerk of the Court
- Public Defender

Potential Funding Source:

- Domestic Violence Service (DVS) Grant funding by the Department of Children and Families.

**Harbor House of Central Florida, as a recipient of DVS funding from the Department of Children and Families, will select, retain, and engage the services of Praxis International, a technical assistance*



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firm, to conduct the audit and system mapping process. Harbor House has agreed to share the findings of the audit with the Orange County Domestic Violence Commission.

Recommendation No. 2: Upon completion of the system-mapping project, reconvene the Domestic Violence Commission to present mapping process results, gaps, and necessary recommendations.

Context/Justification: The system mapping process is anticipated to take 8-12 months to be completed. Due to the timeframe, there is a need to regroup after the process results are made available. The findings of the system mapping project will assist stakeholders to identify, address and move forward to remediate gaps in domestic violence processes and services in both civil and criminal spheres.

Action Step(s):

- Reconvene the Domestic Violence Commission to review survey results, mapping, and recommendations provided by Praxis or Harbor House.
- Make appropriate recommendations to the Domestic Violence Commission to address systemic, programmatic, and procedural gaps to better serve perpetrators, victims, and survivors of domestic violence.
- To form a workgroup of relevant partners and stakeholders to implement recommendations from the system mapping process results.

Community Stakeholders:

- Domestic Violence Service Providers
- Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- Law Enforcement Agencies
- Orange County Corrections, Pre-Trial Services Division, Probation
- Department of Children and Families
- State Attorney's Office
- Clerk of the Court
- Public Defender

Potential Funding Source:

- Funding sources are dependent on recommendations and solutions to identified gaps.
- Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women



COMMUNITY SERVICE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members: Gerry Glynn (Chair) | Jana Jasinski, Ph.D. | Marie Martinez | Sharron Washington

Recommendation No. 1: Identify staff or fund position to monitor and report on Domestic Violence Commission recommendations, reports, studies, and ongoing domestic violence efforts to include training in the county.

Context/Justification: A lot of effort goes into a task force and commission reports as well as studies. The county should dedicate staff to review previous reports and recommendations and monitor domestic violence efforts in the county to include systemic changes. This type of monitoring informs training needs for county personnel and community members to improve the community's prevention and response to domestic violence.

Action Step(s):

- Review domestic violence training curriculum for county personnel and the community.
- Work with county human resources and training team on implementation of training for employees.
- Work with community-based agencies on current training platforms and develop strategies for dissemination of training in the community to include but not limited to faith-based leaders, fire rescue personnel, law enforcement to include SRO's, courts, and animal services personnel.
- Create progress reports on a semi-annual basis.

Community Stakeholders:

- Domestic Violence Service Providers
- Faith-based leaders
- Fire Rescue Department in Orange County
- Law Enforcement Agencies in Orange County
- Ninth Judicial Circuit
- Orange County Animal Services

Potential Funding Source(s):

- Federal, state, and local grant opportunities



Recommendation No. 2: Engage with Faith-Based and Humanistic Leaders to develop a Domestic Violence Outreach Campaign.

Context/Justification: Our faith-based and humanistic leaders are trusted voices in the community and play a critical role in preventing domestic violence. By knowing the early signs of domestic violence, faith-based and humanistic leaders can deliver a concise message to their congregations regarding family violence and assistance.

Action Step(s):

- County staff and community stakeholders will work with faith-based and humanistic leaders to develop and coordinate a campaign to prevent and combat domestic violence.
- Work with community stakeholders to provide ongoing training to faith-based and humanistic leaders on the early signs of domestic violence and the resources available.
- Engage media partners and Orange TV to develop campaign messages and collateral materials.

Community Stakeholders:

- Faith-Based and Humanistic Leaders Council
- Interfaith Council
- National Latino

Potential Funding Sources:

N/A

Recommendation No. 3: Develop domestic violence response teams with Orange County law enforcement agencies.

Context/Justification: As our community and the nation engage in a dialogue about law enforcement's role in responding to various types of 911 calls, the County should ensure that all law enforcement agencies within the county have an adequate number of officers trained in domestic violence response teams.

Action Step(s):

- Review recommendations with all law enforcement agencies and share Orlando Police Department's model for replication.
- Review current domestic violence training for law enforcement agencies.
- Work with law enforcement to develop domestic violence response teams and training to include cultural competency and trauma-informed decision-making.



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Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Law Enforcement Agencies
- Domestic Violence Service Providers

Potential Funding Source(s):

- Funding would be derived from any reallocation of funds related to public safety

Recommendation No. 4: Expand criteria/focus area of the Orange County Citizens Commission for Children to include domestic violence.

Context/Justification: In the past couple of years, Orange County has committed additional funds for targeted zip codes to address the unmet needs of children and their families. The funds are distributed through the Orange County Citizens Commission for Children. The Commission should expand the service area/criteria to include domestic violence. Domestic violence is a children's issue and needs to be included as a category funded through the Citizens Commission.

Action Step(s):

- Work with Orange County Citizens Commission for Children staff to include domestic violence as a funding category.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Citizen Commission for Children Advisory Board

Potential Funding Source(s)

- Funding provided in the Orange County Citizens Commission for Children budget

Recommendation No. 5: Seek dedicated public/private funding to support transportation services for domestic violence victims and survivors.

Context/Justification: Due to limited transportation funds to assist victims of domestic violence, many are prevented from obtaining the protection or services they need due to transportation barriers.

Action Step(s):

- Work with public and private transportation partners to provide vouchers to assist victims of domestic violence with access to transportation services.
- Develop a resource directory of transportation resources for victims and service providers.



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Community Stakeholders:

- Public and Private Transportation Partners
- Domestic Violence Service Providers
- Hospitals/Emergency Departments
- United Way 2-1-1
- Faith-Based and Humanistic Leaders
- Ninth Judicial Circuit

Potential Funding Source(s):

- Federal, State, and Local Grant Funding Opportunities
- In-kind donation from public and private transportation partners

Recommendation No. 6: Prioritize housing resources for victims of domestic violence in Orange County.

Context/Justification: Housing is and will continue to be a major problem in Orange County. The County leadership has committed substantial funds to address the housing needs of the most vulnerable in our county. Housing is a key factor in ensuring the victim’s protection and their ability to leave their abuser.

Action Step(s):

- Identify and prioritize housing resources for victims of domestic violence.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Housing and Community Development Division

Potential Funding Source(s):

- Existing Orange County funding



PUBLIC AWARENESS & COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Members: Heather Wilkie (Chair) | Lisa Alexander | Diana Mejia | Tekoa Puerie | Bob Smedley

Recommendation No. 1: Create Domestic Violence Public Service Announcements (PSA).

Context/Justification: There is a need to educate our community as well as present and future victims regarding the signs and types of domestic violence. The PSA's provide an opportunity to send messages of encouragement to victims and reinforce the resources available in the community.

Action Steps:

- Create PSA to include survivors and advocates from diverse backgrounds including Asian, African American, Hispanic, Muslim, LGBTQ, and White.
- Create short segments from the overarching PSA directed at specific communities.
- Increase outreach by sharing PSA's on social media, county website, county commissioners, community partners, and media outlets.
- Plan and execute a strategy to secure ad and billboard placements to promote PSA message.
- Draft and send a press release to announce the release of PSA's.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Communications Division
- Orange County Domestic Violence Commission, Public Awareness & Community Education Committee
- Orange County Public Schools - Communications
- Electronic and print media
- Community partners
- Survivors
- Hospitals and healthcare providers

Potential Funding Source:

No expected cost.

Recommendation No. 2: Build and maintain a multilingual Domestic Violence Community Resource Page & E-Guide.

Context/Justification: A victim who experiences domestic violence is often traumatized and overwhelmed. A community resource directory is needed to assist domestic violence victims to navigate the system and access available resources.



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Action Steps:

- Collect information about domestic violence service providers.
- Draft and publish community resource page and e-guide in English, Spanish, and Creole.
- Promote resources among domestic violence service providers, community-based providers, healthcare agencies, faith-based organizations, and public safety agencies (law enforcement, fire rescue, and corrections department).

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Communications Division
- Orange County Domestic Violence Commission, Public Awareness & Community Education Committee
- Community-Based Service Providers
- Community partners
- Electronic and print media outlets

Potential Funding Source:

No expected cost.

Recommendation No. 3: Publish periodic newsroom stories on Orange County Newsroom focused on educating the community on how to recognize the signs of domestic violence, provide messages of encouragement for survivors and inform the public and victims there is a safe way out and a call to action.

Context/Justification: Periodic newsroom stories are needed to increase awareness and create momentum and interest from the media and the community in general about domestic violence issues. Newsroom stories also provide an opportunity to promote the signs of domestic violence and learn more about available resources.

Action Step(s):

- Increase outreach by sharing newsroom stories on county social media, and share with county commissioners, community partners, and media outlets.
- Work with community stakeholders to develop periodic newsroom stories for ongoing engagement with the community and media outlets.

Community Stakeholders:

- Orange County Communications Division
- Orange County Domestic Violence Commission, Public Awareness & Community Education Committee
- Communication partners



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- Community-based agencies
- Electronic and print media outlets

Potential Funding Source:

- No expected cost.