Historically, the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) has focused on providing a multi-disciplinary team approach to high-risk-for-lethality domestic violence cases through a case referral system. Since DVERT's inception in 1996, this response has been shown to be beneficial to the families that DVERT provides services to; however, DVERT team members were frustrated with the “all or nothing” approach and the lack of available resources to work with all families in an intensive manner. In June 2004 team members came together, and through a series of planning meetings, developed what is now known as the Intake or Differential Response caseload. This caseload is in addition to the Intensive caseload consisting of a full multi-disciplinary team.

Cases are brought into the Intake/Differential Response caseload through the same referral and screening process used for the Intensive caseload. When an individual submits a referral, background information on both the victim and offender are pulled from a variety of sources and local agencies. This information is compiled and presented three days a week to a multi-disciplinary team of client service staff. Team members review the information provided and look for 1) potential gaps in service, 2) need for investigative services, 3) need for victim advocacy, 4) need for child protection and/or child advocacy resources, 5) need for prosecution oversight or enhancement, and 5) a high-profile sensitive nature of the case.

DVERT team members collectively identify if a referral meets one or all of the above criteria and decide what the response should be on each case. If services are needed by all team members, the case is brought into the Intensive caseload and a full multi-disciplinary team will be assigned to work with the victim, children, and ensure offender accountability. If the case does not rise to the level of assigning an entire team, the case is assigned to any necessary combination of team members (i.e. a confidential victim advocate may be assigned to assist the victim with a restraining order or a child advocate may be assigned to assist the victim and/or children with safety planning). When a team member works with a victim in the Intake caseload, a referral to DVERT Differential Response Adds Resources
On May 8, 2004, Commander Rick Millwright presented at a statewide symposium, on behalf of DVERT, on domestic violence collaborations in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Governor’s Office in New Mexico has formed a Domestic Violence Advisory Board to look at cooperative responses to domestic violence. On May 18, 2004, DVERT staff presented a full day of training to statewide representatives of the Division of Youth & Family Services in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Obviously, New Mexico is on the move and is working to develop relationships between child protective service caseworkers, victim advocates, law enforcement and treatment providers on a statewide basis. We wish them success and will be offering them support as they take the large and sometimes difficult steps to improve services for domestic violence victims and their children in New Mexico.

DVERT has fostered these kinds of relationships with groups all across the country (and the world) over the last seven years. The importance of sharing the type of work DVERT does is evident each and every time we meet with groups creating new and better collaborations.

I am proud that the El Paso and Teller County communities can boast of an internationally reputed organization that is supported by so many important service agencies. Our partner agencies are the support girders that allow us to achieve the teamwork and have the resources we need to fulfill our mission. Our future is bright!

Have a great summer!
Sgt. Cari Graves,
DVERT Program Director

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**DVERT POP Program Monthly Update**

The DVERT Problem Oriented Policing (POP) program is a proactive approach to contact victims of domestic violence within Colorado Springs whose addresses have had three or more domestic disturbance calls for service during a 12-month period.

Since its reintroduction in 2003, 76 (or 57% of the total 134 DVERT POP packets generated) Officer Contact Sheets were returned to DVERT with contact made to the victim. On average, officers spent 20 minutes with a victim on a DVERT POP contact.

Half of the victims contacted (38) reported that the perpetrator is currently residing in the home. Of those 38 victims contacted:
- \(~1\) victim refused the packet;
- \(~63\%\) (24) of the contacts were done in the presence of the identified perpetrator;
- \(~5\%\) of the victims stated they have a restraining order against the perpetrator;
- \(~10\%\) of the perpetrators were reported to have made any threats to the victim;
- \(~3\%\) of the victims recounted that weapons were involved in either past or present incidents;
- \(~8\%\) conveyed they were fearful or afraid of their current partner;
- \(~55\%\) said animals were present in the home; and
- \(~63\%\) reported children present in the home; however, of the animals and children present, neither the victim nor the officer reported they considered them to be “At Risk.”

The other 38 victims that were contacted by officers reported the perpetrator was not residing in the home. Of these 38 victims contacted:
- \(~2\) contacts were done in the presence of the identified perpetrator;
- \(~16\%\) of these victims stated they have a restraining order against the perpetrator;
- \(~50\%\) reported the perpetrator has repeatedly contacted them;
- \(~10\%\) of the victims reported the perpetrators to have made (any) threats; and
- \(~18\%\) conveyed they were fearful or afraid of their current partner.

While this program was reintroduced less than a year ago, this information suggests that some victims contacted through POP continue to live in fear of their abusers. This information will be used to develop additional support from DVERT for the officers making the contacts in the near future.

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Looking for DVERT’s monthly statistics? They can now be found in complete form at www.dvert.org/research/monthly.asp
Wendy Sutherland-Ali, Administrative Volunteer

Name: Wendy Sutherland-Ali

DVERT Affiliation: Administrative Volunteer

What does this mean? Wendy is at DVERT four mornings a week offering administrative support to the Program Coordinator and the Crime Analyst. She assists with background and Fast Track checks for DVERT clients and also assists the Office Specialist. Recently, a large portion of her time has been allocated to the development of Excel programs for the capturing of statistics for funding purposes.

How long has Wendy been working with DVERT? Wendy began working with DVERT in January 2004.

And outside of DVERT, who is Wendy? Wendy was born and raised in the northern part of the Province of Ontario, Canada in a mining community. For the last 25 years, prior to moving to the U.S., she lived in the southern part of Ontario in a city close to Toronto. Since 1981, Wendy was employed by the largest natural gas utility in Canada, Enbridge Gas Distribution. Most recently (1995-2003), she was part of the Sales/Operations Department as a Sales Development Representative. Her job entailed dealing with the general public and municipal officials as well as land developers, architects and investors who were interested in getting a natural gas service to their home or business. An avid physical fitness nut, Wendy weight trains and takes yoga classes three times a week. She enjoys the outdoors (and says she is still adjusting to the altitude!) and takes any opportunity to be outside. Wendy has two long-haired miniature dachshunds and a husband who is a car buff who often asks her to lend a hand.

Married in August of 2003, Wendy moved to Colorado Springs in October, 2003. By December, she realized she was going through some serious “separation anxiety” and had to get involved in a work environment. She visited the “google.com” website for local volunteer opportunities and CSPD came up as an option. After an initial interview, she thought DVERT would be an interesting and challenging opportunity. She had absolutely no pre-conceptions of what the experience would be and she says her experience has been more rewarding than she ever anticipated.

On why she has enjoyed working at DVERT: Wendy says, “With my job at Enbridge, I was accustomed to a fast paced, strong, team environment with multiple deadlines to meet. DVERT is a similar based work environment and I feel very comfortable in that situation. The staff is conscientious and friendly and is extremely appreciative of any assistance they’re given.”

In honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, DVERT is intensifying its efforts to reach out to victims in the community who may not already be receiving services that might increase their safety and support. DVERT and the Kennedy Center’s Imagination Celebration will be co-hosting the Healthy Families Fair at The Citadel on Saturday, October 9, 2004 from 10am—2pm. This event will feature more than 60 community organizations that promote and support healthy families.

It is anticipated that this year’s Fair will be double the size of last year’s. The 2004 Fair will include a RAID (Raising Awareness around Illegal Drugs) by P.A.C.T. (Police and Clergy Together). RAID’s are high-energy community rallies, that offer entertainment, free food and information. The Fair will also feature performances, interactive art demonstrations, public safety displays, and self-sufficiency seminars. Other booths will feature community agencies that offer services and assistance to domestic violence victims and their children.

DVERT invites any agency who provides a service to families to join in this year’s fair. It is an amazing opportunity to distribute information about available resources and to network with other professionals. Booths will be located in high visibility areas of the mall, and booth space is free.

For more information about the Fair, please call Kelli Taylor at DVERT at 719.444.7992.
How many times have you witnessed a parent struggling with a child in the midst of a tantrum in a public place? How many times have you seen an infant left alone in a hot car on a summer day while the parent is shopping? How often have you observed a child in your neighborhood playing unsupervised in the street? And, how often have you struggled with questions about whether or how to help? If this sounds like you...you are not alone.

 Sadly, many of America’s families are struggling. They are faced with a multitude of challenges ranging from substance abuse to unemployment, social isolation to inadequate healthcare, too much to do and too little time to do it in. As a result—child safety, family strength, and community connection have been growingly compromised. In fact, according to the most recent national statistics, nearly 903,000 children were reported and substantiated as victims of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse; or neglect annually (2001).

American Humane’s Front Porch Project is a national initiative created to help community residents become more involved in the safety and well-being of children, recognizing that one person can make a significant difference in the life of a child. Training sessions are the core of this project. They are designed to help participants examine and understand their role in the lives of children and families, as they acquire new skills and learn safe intervention methods to promote child safety and family well-being. Now, more than ever, parents, family members, friends, neighbors, community members, and service providers all need to share in the responsibility for the safety and well-being of our nation’s children.

The first Front Porch training was piloted in Arapahoe County, CO in 1997. Since then, it has been reorganized into a Train-the-Trainer model in order to support greater community ownership and sustainability. One of the factors leading to the greater success of this effort has been the development, with Devereux Kids, Inc., of a community partnership model that includes:

~Sustainers: A community organization that has the vision, mission, philosophy, infrastructure, and connections to initiate and maintain the effort.
~Connectors: Individuals, neighborhood associations, organizations, agencies, or faith-based groups who participate in the project and identify other participants.
~Supporters: Foundations, corporations, organizations, and agencies providing funds and other in-kind resources to support and maintain the project.

Today, the Front Porch Project is flourishing in communities across Florida and in Tacoma, WA. Devereux Kids, Inc. has been a critical partner and sustainer of the Florida effort, reporting hundreds of interventions that resulted in increased child safety over the four years of their involvement. Additionally, American Humane is working with communities in the Midwest and on the west coast who are hoping to launch new local initiatives aimed at keeping children safe and their communities strong.

For more information, contact American Humane at 303.792.9900 or visit www.americanhumane.org.

DVERT Differential Response Adds Resources, Con’t.

(Continued from page 1)

Intensive can always be generated in order to provide the full response.

The response to developing the new caseload has allowed for a more widespread approach to handling cases in which a full team may not be warranted. DVERT anticipates that by “widening the net” of cases, the number of victims and children served will more than triple from years past. In addition to what has been described in this article, DVERT continues to reach out to families in need as well as to other professionals in the field, through after-hours call-outs, problem/community oriented policing projects, law enforcement probable cause reviews, victim outreach, and child protection intake assessments. The preceding will be described in more detail in future articles.
In order to protect their privacy, all victims in DVERT Case Reviews will be referred to as Jane Doe.

Earlier this spring, DVERT received a call from Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) Officers who were assigned to the Falcon Division in reference to an ongoing domestic violence situation on the Northwest side of Colorado Springs.

The DVERT Detective was told that patrol officers were currently investigating a domestic violence case and the patrol officers felt this was a case DVERT needed to become involved in. The DVERT Detective was told the offender had been charged on at least three other occasions with domestic violence. DVERT also learned that the last time the offender was arrested, approximately one month ago, he was charged with stalking and was in possession of a controlled substance (Methamphetamines). The Detective was also informed the offender had a $200,000 bond on his last case and he was able to make bond.

The DVERT Team responded to the scene and met with the victim, Jane Doe. Jane is a small business owner and she had been trying to deal with the domestic violence and run her business for the last few months. Jane informed the DVERT Team she has an eight year-old daughter.

Jane played approximately 45 minutes of telephone messages that the offender had left for her on her home, work and cellular telephones. All of the calls were in violation of a permanent protection order. Jane estimated she received approximately 100 calls from the offender in one month alone.

Jane was pleased to learn that from now on she could contact the DVERT Detective to handle any further violations and she did not have to tell the entire story to a new officer each time a report was made.

The DVERT Victim Advocate on scene discussed safety planning with Jane and the Deputy District Attorney explained the court process to her.

The same day DVERT met with Jane, the offender was arrested by DVERT officers at his place of employment. The offender was booked into El Paso County Sheriff’s Office Criminal Justice Center on the charges of Stalking, Violation of a Protection Order and Violation of Bail Bonds Conditions.

The next day, the DVERT Detective and Deputy District Attorney attended the offender’s advisement hearing and requested the court raise the offender’s bond due to his repeated violations of previous bond conditions and the escalation of violence between Jane and the offender. The Judge agreed with the DVERT Team and set the offender’s bond at $500,000.

The offender was able to bond out on the $500,000 bond a few days later. Approximately one month later the DVERT Detective called Jane to check on her and Jane informed him that the offender had again violated the protection order. An investigation was completed and five days later the offender was arrested for Violation of a Protection Order and Violation of Bail Bonds Conditions.

Following the arrest, the DVERT Detective and Deputy District Attorney met with the Judge in this case and the Judge decided to set the offender’s bond at $1,000,000 and issue a personal recognizance (P.R.) bond to the offender. By issuing the P.R. bond the offender will be closely monitored for drug use and any violations of the bond conditions will result in the offender being held on the $1,000,000 bond. If the offender violates the P.R. bond, he would have to post the entire $1,000,000 to be released.

At this point the offender has not committed any new violations.
Training Opportunities
Low & no-cost ways to get out there & learn

In this section you will find listings for trainings offered by DVERT, our partner agencies or other statewide organizations. If you are interested in listing an opportunity in this newsletter, please fax your information (attn: Kirsten Akens) to 719.444.7815. We will post trainings as space allows.

Citizen Emergency Response Training
Occurs Monthly
Colorado Springs Fire Department Complex (Headquarters) located at 375 Printers Parkway in Colorado Springs and El Paso County OEM (305 South Union), Colorado Springs, CO
Cost: Free
The Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management and the El Paso County Emergency Services Division announce the second local Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) course for citizens. In this free 3-day class citizens will learn to provide assistance for themselves, their families, and their neighbors during a disaster.

Instructors will be from the City and County Offices of Emergency Management, area fire departments, and local medical providers. The course will prepare citizens to face a disaster. The course consists of eight modules including:
- disaster medical assistance,
- light search and rescue,
- fire safety,
- disaster psychology
- terrorism

Classes will be held on once a month during 2004 on the following dates:

July 2004
Where: Colorado Springs OEM (375 Printers Parkway)
When: Friday, July 23, 6pm—9 pm;
Saturday, July 24, 9am—4 pm;
Sunday, July 25, 9am—4 pm

August 2004
Where: El Paso OEM (305 S. Union)
When: Friday, August 27, 6pm—9 pm;
Saturday, August 28, 9am—4 pm;
Sunday, August 29, 9am—4 pm

September 2004
Where: Colorado Springs OEM (375 Printers Parkway)
When: Friday, September 24, 6pm—
9pm;
Saturday, September 25, 9am—4 pm;
Sunday, September 26, 9am—4 pm

Additional classes will be held in October and November. This is a three-day class that will provide comprehensive training that will prepare citizens to face a disaster.

Interested citizens are asked to contact the Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management at 719.385.5957 to register.

Each class session is limited to 25 participants and will fill up fast! Media is invited to attend all or part of these trainings. Please contact Public Communications if you plan to attend 719.385.5254.

DVERT STAFF

Sgt. Cari Graves, Program Director, Colorado Springs Police Dept.
Erin Duran, Associate Program Director, T·E·S·S·A


We’re on the web! www.dvert.org