Part III: Witness Intimidation:
The Principles of Witness Protection

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Transcript of Prezi

Threat Assessment:

- Determine that there is an imminent and credible threat against the life of this witness/victim
- Utilize a dynamic screening and threat assessment tool
    - Assessment Tool Protocol
        - Identify areas in an individual's/family life where they would be at risk
        - Once areas are identified, a safety plan is developed using resources and referrals
- Determine what actions your agency will need to take to keep this person (or family) safe

Collecting Information (Case)

- Police/DA work together to collect data regarding the case and the key players
- Criminal history, associations, geographical locations, and type of crime are determined
- Do the key players in the case have the motivation and the reach to cause harm?

Collecting Information (Personal)

- Police/DA use a form to collect personal information to assist us in determining what our assistance might look like
- Information collected includes: amount of rent/mortgage, storage unit, daycare, medical expenses and information, probation or parole information (we may have to work with a PO), if they have been a CI, pending cases, etc.…

Threat Assessment

- After the data is collected ALL information is taken into consideration to determine IF the parties involved have the reach and the motivation to cause harm

- THEN it will be determined IF there is an imminent and credible threat against the life of this witness/victim.

NO Credible/Imminent Threat
- While there may not be a threat right NOW…
- If one piece in this puzzle changes, a new threat assessment may need to be completed and additional action may need to be taken.

If there is a Credible/Imminent Threat
- Is it geographical? Will moving the person out of the specific area solve ALL problems?
- Is it opportunistic? IF they see this person – will there be problems?
- Is more required to ensure personal safety?

Victim Services
- Five Impacts on Victims
  o Physical
  o Emotional
  o Financial
  o Social
  o Spiritual
- Lifestyle Changes
  o Self-Esteem
  o Substance Abuse
  o Human Trafficking
  o Dysfunctional Family
  o Education/Job Training

- Trauma and the Brain
  - Remember! Most witnesses are either in "trauma mode" now or have been their whole lives.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's defines trauma-informed organizations or programs as those that:
  - Understand the impact of trauma on the path to recovery
  - Recognize the signs of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others
  - Respond by incorporating trauma-informed care (TIC) principles into policies, procedures, and practices
  - Seek to avoid retraumatization
- Some key principles of this approach include:
  - Safety
  - Trustworthiness
  - Transparency
  - Peer Support
  - Collaboration and Mutuality
  - Empowerment, Voice, and Choice
  - Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues
- This approach can manifest as:
  - Trauma-based services and curricula
  - Integrated multi-model trauma-informed culture

Utilize Resources: Victim Advocates, Local Law Enforcement, and Social Services
- Universal Principles:
  - A Shared Vision
  - Commitment
  - Direct Representation
  - Decision Making Power
  - Structure
  - Resources
  - Trust

Planning for Change

- Who's not at the table?
- Who will be?
  - Concerned in any way with the project
  - Located in the region
  - Hold an influential position
  - May be affected by the problems addressed in the program
- Analyze identified groups:
  a) Characteristics: social (members, social background, religion, cultural aspects), status of the group (formal, informal, other) and structure (organization, leaders, etc.)
  b) The main problems affecting or facing the group (economic, ecological, cultural, etc.)
  c) The main needs and wishes, interests (openly expressed, hidden, vested), motives (hopes, expectations, fears), and attitudes (friendly/neutral/hostile towards implementation agencies and others) as seen from the group's point of view
  d) The potential in terms of both strengths (resources) and weaknesses of the group, and what could the group contribute or withhold from the project
  e) The linkages indicating main conflicts of interests, patterns of cooperation or dependency with other groups
- Set priorities:
  - Decide who interests and views are to be given priority in addressing problems
    - Which are the groups most in need of external assistance?
    - Which interest groups should be supported in order to ensure positive development?
    - What conflicts would occur by supporting given interest groups and what measures can be taken to avoid such conflicts?

- Community Readiness Model
  - How ripe are the issues? Is the environment ready?
    - Assessment of readiness is done for 6 key dimensions
      - Efforts
      - Community Knowledge of Efforts
      - Leadership
      - Community Climate
      - Community Knowledge of the Issue
      - Resources

Planning for Partnerships
- Leadership: the process of change is NOT self-initiating
  - Competence
  - Reliability
  - Integrity
  - Communication
- Plan
  - Research
  - Identify strengths and weaknesses
  - Cross-train
  - Create powerful teams
  - Set goals and objectives
  - Acknowledge successes along the way
  - Be systems orientated
- Implementation
  - Launch Strategies
  - Inclusiveness Training
  - Plan a review date

- o Be Prepared to:
  - Re-learn
  - Re-audit
  - Re-think
  - Re-develop
  - Re-energize
- Sustainability Planning: funds, friends, finds
  - o Forecasting
  - o Identifying Leaders and Champions
  - o Volunteer Management
  - o Program Partners
  - o Key Collaborators
  - o Resource Development

Keys to the Future
- Resources
- Structure