



Lethality Assessment Program— Maryland Model (LAP)



Train-the-Trainer Curriculum Law Enforcement and Domestic Violence Service Programs

2017 | Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

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Ice Breaker: Embracing Change



Learning Objectives



- To differentiate the LAP from other risk assessment programs as an evidence-based approach to intimate partner homicide prevention.
- To identify the steps of the LAP protocol.
- To apply knowledge of LAP protocol and prepare for in-service training through role plays and collaborative activities.

Next Steps



- Prior to In-Service training
 - Webinars (if applicable) to review in-service curriculum
 - Policy Decisions Worksheet
 - Pre-Implementation Teleconference
- In-Service training
 - Each DVSP and law enforcement agency must conduct in-service training within four months
- Implementation
 - Collect data for at least the first 12 months of implementation

What is lethality assessment?



- Lethality assessment is a way to assess the level of danger in an intimate partner relationship.
- Risk factors for re-assault are different than risk factors for lethality.
 - Examples: pet abuse, substance use, abuse during pregnancy, etc.
- **Why prioritize lethality assessment?**
 - 1,500 intimate partner homicides per year in the U.S., not including collateral deaths
 - For every 1 homicide, there are 8-9 near-homicides.



What is the Lethality Assessment Program–Maryland Model (LAP)?



Identifying victims at the greatest risk of being killed

And

Immediately connecting them with services

Predictable and Preventable



- Intimate partner homicide
 - Predictable and preventable
- LAP is an evidence-based response to intimate partner homicide

1. Nicolaidis, C., et. al, 2003, Could we have known? A qualitative analysis of data from women who survived an attempted homicide by an intimate partner. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 18, 788-794.
2. Campbell, J.C., et. al, 2003, Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089-1097.

The Evidence Tells Us



- For 28-33% of victims, the homicide or attempted homicide was the first act of violence.
- More than 44% of perpetrators were arrested in the year prior to the homicide, and almost one-third of victims contacted the police.
- Only 4% of abused victims had used a DV hotline or shelter within the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner.

Predictable

Preventable

1. Nicolaidis, C., et. al, 2003, Could we have known? A qualitative analysis of data from women who survived an attempted homicide by an intimate partner. *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 18, 788-794.
2. Campbell, J.C., et. al, 2001, Missed opportunities for prevention of femicide by health care providers. *Preventive Medicine* 33, 373-80

Stages of Change



1. J.G. Burke, A.C. Gielen, K.A. McDonnell, P. O'Campo, & S. Maman. (2001). The Process of Ending Abuse in Intimate Relationships. *Violence Against Women*, 7(10), 1144-1163.

How the LAP Works: Video



When to Initiate the LAP



- At the end of the call for service
- Only in cases of intimate partner relationships *and*
- A manifestation of danger:
 - When you believe there's been an assault or act of domestic violence,
 - When you believe the victim faces danger when you leave,
 - When the home or parties are repeats, or
 - When your gut tells you that the situation is dangerous.

Initiating the Lethality Screen



- Approach the Lethality Screen **simply, positively, and privately** with the victim.
- Advise the victim you would like to ask her/him some questions to get a better idea of her/his situation.
- Ask all the questions in order and as written.

Lethality Screen



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY SCREEN FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim declined to be screened		
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the officer could not administer the screen		
A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 is an automatic High-Danger assessment		
1. Has he/she/they ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
2. Has he/she/they threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
3. Do you think he/she/they might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
"Yes" responses to at least four of Questions #4-11 is an automatic High-Danger Assessment		
4. Does he/she/they have a gun or can they easily get one?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
5. Has he/she/they ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
6. Is he/she/they violently or constantly jealous or does he/she/they control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
7. Have you left him/her/them or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
8. Is he/she/they unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
9. Has he/she/they ever tried to kill himself/herself/themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
10. Do you have a child that he/she/they knows is not his/hers/theirs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
11. Does he/she/they follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans/Unk	
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
An officer may make a High-Danger Assessment if the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim is High-Danger based on score <input type="checkbox"/> Victim is High-Danger based on officer belief <input type="checkbox"/> Victim is not assessed as High-Danger	
If victim is High-Danger, did officer make a call to the hotline?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Did the victim speak with the hotline advocate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Activity: 11 Questions in 2 Minutes



- Use your copy of the Lethality Screen.
- Partner with someone next to you.
- Introduce the Screen.
- Ask all the questions, in order, as written.
- Fill in the answer that the “victim” gives you.
- Now switch! Repeat!

Hotline Calls and Cutoffs



Call the hotline

- "Yes" to Q. #1, 2 or 3
OR
- "No" to Q. #1, 2 or 3,
but "Yes" to at least four
of Q. #4-11

Call the hotline

- "No" to all
OR
- "Yes" to no more than 3
of Q. #4-11, **but officer
believes it is
appropriate**

Call the hotline

- Victim "does not answer"
(DNA) the Screen b/c
she/he needs immediate
medical attention

Activity: "Scoring" the Lethality Screen



- "Yes" to Q. 1 and Q. 2, "No" to all remaining questions
 - High-Danger? Non-High Danger?
- "No" to Q. 1-3 (but was reluctant to answer Q. 3; answered "Yes" to 3 of Q. #4-11)
 - High-Danger? Non-High Danger?
- "No" to all questions (situation)
 - High-Danger? Non-High Danger?
- Does not answer (DNA) the Lethality Screen
 - High-Danger? Non-High Danger?

High-Danger



1. Advise victims they are in danger, that people in their situation have been killed.
2. Call hotline.
3. Provide basic information.
4. Victim speaks with hotline (officer stands-by).
5. Officer speaks with hotline again.

Gather Information from Officer



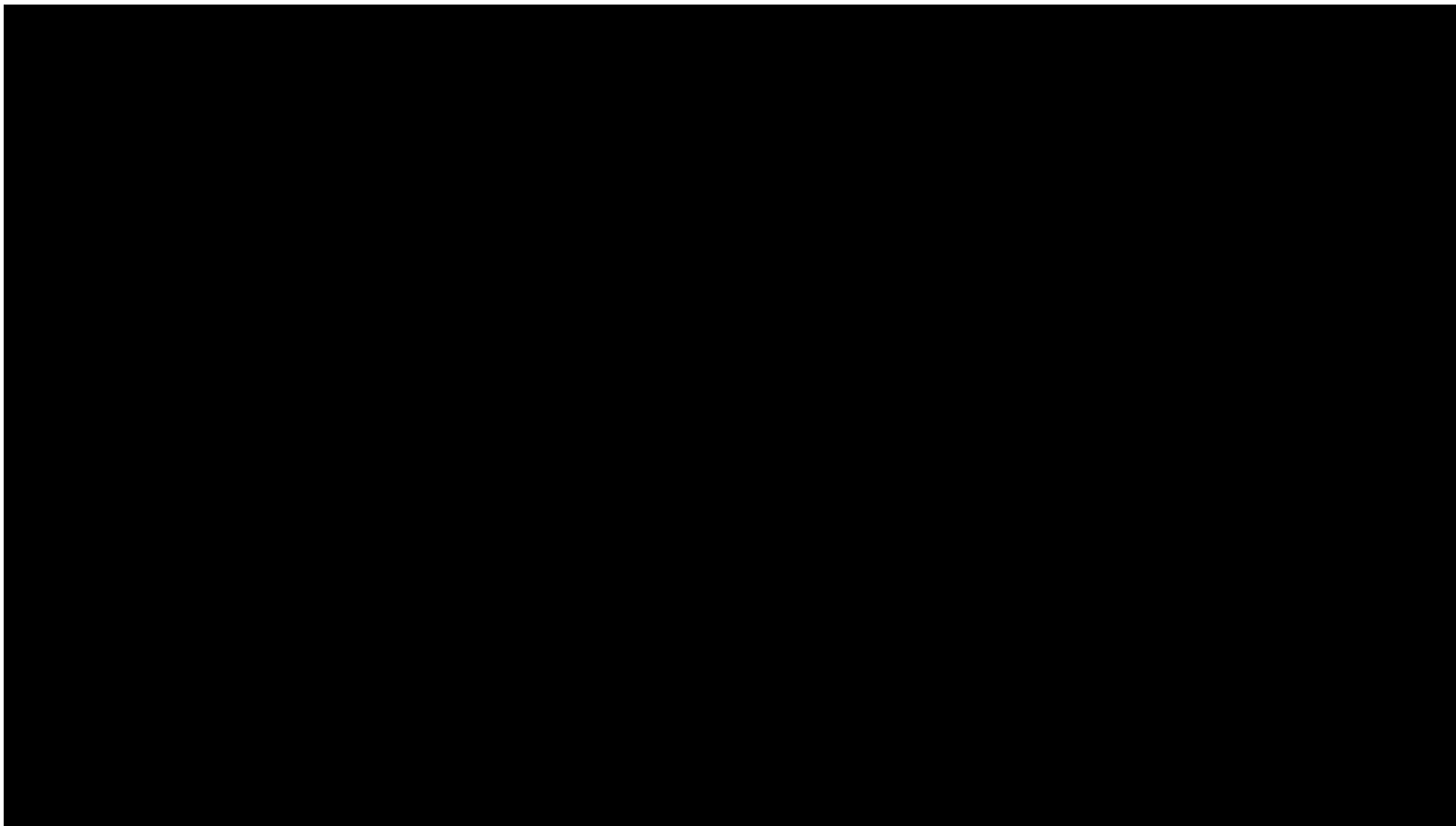


High-Danger: Victim agrees to speak with the advocate



1. Advise victims they are in danger, that people in their situation have been killed.
2. Call domestic violence hotline.
3. Provide basic information to hotline.
- 4. Victim speaks with hotline (officer stands-by).**
5. Officer concludes call by speaking with hotline.

Lisa's 911 Call



Counting the Differences



- For the hotline advocate, the conversation is different because in this conversation, as opposed to most hotline conversations:
 - The situation is volatile and dynamic, not static.
 - The police are in the home.
 - The offender is lurking or under arrest.
 - The victim is not “ready” to talk, and thus may not listen.
 - Increased pressure to get victims into services quicker.
 - The victim may not be “able” to listen given the situation.
 - The conversation must be BRIEF!

High-Danger Hotline Call



1. Gather Information from Officer
2. **Build Rapport with Victim**

High-Danger Hotline Call



1. Gather Information from Officer
2. Build Rapport with Victim
3. **Reiterate Danger of Victim's Situation**

High-Danger Hotline Call



1. Gather Information from Officer
2. Build Rapport with Victim
3. Reiterate Danger of Victim's Situation
4. **Educate and Safety Plan**

Activity: LAP Case Study



- **Tina**, age 34, **mother of 3** (2 by ex-husband, 1 by current abuser).
- **Lives with abuser, Adam**, in public housing where she is the head of household.
- **He is being arrested** for shoving her and smashing her cell phone when she called 911.

High-Danger Hotline Call



1. Gather Information from Officer
2. Build Rapport with Victim
3. Reiterate Danger of Victim's Situation
4. Educate and Safety Plan
5. **Encourage Victim to Go Into Services**

Activity: Program Services in Your Own Words



- Advocates:
 - Write down (in your own words) how you would briefly describe the services your program offers.
 - Sell your services in 60 seconds
- Law enforcement officers:
 - Write down any questions you may have about the program's services.



High Danger: Victim agrees to speak to the advocate



1. Advise victim she/he is in danger, that people in her/his situation have been killed.
2. Call domestic violence hotline.
3. Provide basic information to hotline.
4. Victim speaks with hotline (officer stands-by).
5. **Officer concludes call by speaking with hotline.**

Activity: Role Play



High-Danger: Victim initially declines to speak with the advocate



- Tell the victim that you will still contact the domestic violence program.
- Ask the victim to reconsider speaking with the hotline advocate.
- Call the hotline.
- While still on the phone with the hotline advocate, ask the victim if she/he has reconsidered and would now like to speak with the advocate.

High-Danger: Victim continues to decline to speak with the advocate



- Reiterate that victim is in a dangerous situation.
- Engage in basic safety planning with the victim through the advocate.
- Inform the victim to watch for lethality predictors.
- Ask for contact information for follow-up.
- Encourage the victim to utilize the DVSP's services.
- Provide the victim with the officer's contact info.

Activity: Role Play



Non-High Danger



Non-High Danger victims are not at the same level of danger as High-Danger victims and therefore do not warrant the same urgent level of communication.

- Advise victim that domestic violence situations are dangerous.
- Advise victim to look for signs of danger.
- Vigorously refer victim to domestic violence service program.
- Give victim contact information.



**“You took the time when no one else did.
If you hadn’t I am sure me and my
children would be dead.”**

QUESTIONS



Contact Information



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