

"Don't judge each day by the
harvest that you reap but by the
seeds that you plant."

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Conclusion

The Vision for Victim Safety Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan formation allowed participating members of the Oklahoma Victim Services System and their spheres of influence to engage in a thorough, strategically planned process. In so doing, seeds have been planted to nurture the "wholesome" activities currently utilized to serve victims, to transform the "unwholesome" activities, and to evaluate the "indeterminate" activities.

CONCLUSION
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The Vision for Victim Safety process involved creating a timeline and milestones to guide the surveys, interviews, focus groups, and data sources analysis conducted by the Integrated Concepts professionals. The resulting report is intended to serve as a resource as the Oklahoma Coordinated Community Response Team continues to "examine the soil" in which victim services are growing, to unearth and eliminate the "bugs" and challenges currently facing victim services, to assess the findings, and to further define the problem. The information gleaned from this report can serve as the foundation for nurturing the vision and promise of safety, security, and stability for all residents of Oklahoma. The recommendations are designed as a framework through which this nurturing, transforming, and evaluating may take place according to trauma-informed, evidence-based, best practices and aligned with the guiding principles set forth herein.

The OCCRT is recommended to provide high-level leadership for local programming and initiatives designed to support victims as they begin their healing, to encourage tapping into and formalizing access to community resources, and to improve justice for victims and accountability of perpetrators thereby raising victims' comfort levels in participating in the criminal justice and victim service process. The OCCRT is also charged with assisting local entities in overcoming the challenges faced by tribal and rural agencies, such as: geographic isolation, poverty and rising crime rates, shortage of public transportation, lack of public awareness of community resources, victim confidentiality issues, and shortage of public safety and victim assistance resources. The Threshold of Transformation Implementation Team is recommended to allow victim service providers administrative and collaborative support so the providers and local administrators can spend more time focusing on their direct service and organizational management duties. The Threshold of Transformation Implementation Team (Project Director and CSDQE Team) will serve as a liaison between the OCCRT and tribal, state, and local service providers and collaborative partners.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND
THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS...

The efforts of the participants in the Vision for Victim Safety project to date laid a foundation for other members of the victim services system interested in implementing or enhancing trauma-informed, evidence-based, best practices in victim services. Phase VIII of the process involved finalization and submission of the Vision for Victim Safety Strategic Plan Recommendations in November-December of 2017. The advisors are working to secure plan approval and resources during the months of December 2017-July 2018.

Phase IX of the process will involve implementation of a statewide, five-year Strategic Plan which is slated to begin in August-December 2018 and will require:

- effective communication,
- centralized oversight by neutral convener,
- inclusion of all key stakeholders, and
- participation by all.

Using this publication as a guide, victim service providers are encouraged to think about implementation of a statewide strategic plan. . . the "ripening" and "harvesting" of victim services which more closely align to the vision, promise, and guiding principles outlined within this publication. Of what changes would you be most afraid? What changes would you most embrace? What part do you and your organization play in providing **Safety * Security * Stability**? If you could make only one change in victim services, what would it be?

RIPENING OCCURS AT DIFFERENT TIMES

Each seed ripens in its own time. For example, an orange seed produces an orange tree which produces an orange blossom which produces an orange. We can appreciate and enjoy each step of the ripening process. Moving from the current state of Oklahoma Victim Services we need to remember, system change, like nature works in cycles and over time and not all parts of the system are at the same level of "ripeness" to embrace change. We also must remember when something ripens, many of its aspects change completely. An unripe orange is green and sour. A ripe one is orange and sweet. Not all aspects of the ripening/changing process are "sweet;" however, each phase is necessary and discomfort must not stop progress toward our vision of Safety, Security, and Stability.

RIPENING OF DIFFERENT VARIETIES

An unripe banana becomes a banana, it can never become a ripe custard apple. Similarly, a member of the judiciary does not ripen into a victim advocate, a law enforcement officer does not become a SANE. Each member of the victim service system is different, our organizations are all different; however, we each have a part to play in a "healthy diet" of safety, security, and stability. By creating a recipe for sustainable services which are available throughout the changing seasons the Oklahoma Victim Services System will embrace and utilize the variety of "ingredients" provided by each member of the system.

Victim to Survivor

How long does it take for a "victim" to become a "survivor?"

Threshold of TRANSFORMATION



My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground on which I stand.

SAFETY, SECURITY, AND STABILITY

Each of us is a collection of our actions, and our actions are both the cause and result of seeds in our store consciousness. When we do something, our action is a cause. When it bears a result, it is an effect.



Threshold of TRANSFORMATION
 STRATEGIC VISION FOR VICTIM SAFETY
 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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NOW WE ARE MOVING FROM OUR THOUGHTS INTO OUR ACTIONS

HARVESTING

Mantra: "My actions are my only true belongings. I cannot escape the consequences of my actions. My actions are the ground on which I stand."

Mantra: "Each of us is a collection of our actions, and our actions are both the cause and result of seeds in our store consciousness. When we do something, our action is a cause. When it bears a result, it is an effect."

THINK ABOUT HARVESTING SAFETY, SECURITY, AND STABILITY FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF OKLAHOMA...

During the five-year process, harvesting an effective system will require each member of the system to engage in:

- effective communication
- cooperation with the neutral convener who will oversee the process
- inclusion of all key stakeholders
- participation by all members of the victim services system

Threshold of TRANSFORMATION

WHAT 'BUGS' ME?



Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing

A tiny insect no bigger than a grain of rice may go unnoticed on your citrus trees, but it could have devastating consequences for citrus if not stopped. The Asian citrus psyllid feeds on citrus leaves and stems, and can infect citrus trees with bacteria that cause a serious plant disease called Huanglongbing, also known as HLB or citrus greening disease. While not harmful to humans, the disease kills citrus trees and has no cure.

The best way to protect citrus trees from HLB is to stop the Asian citrus psyllid. Once a tree is infected with HLB, it will die. Diseased trees need to be removed in order to protect other citrus trees on the property, neighbors' trees and the community's citrus.



If anything "bugs" you during the session, jot it down here. We will collect the lists at the end of the session.



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ASSESSMENT

What does assessment mean to you? Do you have access to data from surveys, interviews, focus groups, or reviews of national, tribal, state, and local data/research which you can provide to aid the process?

CAPACITY

Are you listening to those within your sphere of influence and hearing potential barriers and obstacles? Are you able to ascertain your willingness to change? The willingness to change within your interpersonal relationships? Your organization? Your community? Federal, Tribal, and Oklahoma Public Policy?

PLANNING

What role can you play in the formalization of a five-year strategic plan, including annual reviews? How can you support the Vision for Victim Safety Implementation Team?

IMPLEMENTATION

How can you assist the Threshold of Transformation Implementation Team when the plan is rolled out with recommended action steps and a communication plan?

EVALUATION

What does evaluation mean to you? Do you view evaluation as something to do because it is required by funders? Do you view evaluation as something to utilize to improve program outcomes? The Threshold of Transformation advisors view evaluation as a way to "check the crop on a daily basis and bring it to market once per year." The

strategic plan includes on-going and annual evaluative measures to provide for a transparent and effective process.

As the reader utilizes this publication to consider the strengths and gaps in responses to crime victims throughout the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma and explores how to initiate or to expand existing trauma-informed, evidence-based efforts to address these gaps, you are invited to also consider what cultural sensitivity means to you and what sustainability means to you?

In conclusion, the Vision for Victim Safety is designed to effectuate a cost-effective, strategically timed, integrated, engaging, and participatory process. The outcomes of the process are intended to be practical, helpful, and useful to victims, survivors, and members of the victim services system. The process will serve the informational needs of victims, providers, funding agencies, and leadership. Implementation of the plan will be completed in a realistic, prudent, diplomatic, and frugal manner. All members of the Threshold of Transformation Implementation Team will model legal and ethical behavior while showing due regard for the welfare of all individuals involved in the process and those affected by the process. All evaluative reports will reveal and convey technically accurate information.



AFTER THE STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



FULL LEGAL DISCLAIMER This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by agencies of the United States Government, numerous Tribal Nations, and the State of Oklahoma, Neither the United States Government, any Tribal Nation, the State of Oklahoma nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, nor any of their contractors, subcontractors or their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or any third party's use or the results of such use of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government, any Tribal Nation, the State of Oklahoma, or any agency thereof or their contractors or subcontractors. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government, any Tribal Nation, the State of Oklahoma or any agency thereof.

GRATITUDE

Integrated Concepts gratefully acknowledges the many individuals and organizations who contributed to this process and the preparation for the final report. We express gratitude of the advisors who demonstrated faith in the process and encouraged anonymity of all participants in the survey, interview, and focus group phases. Without the assistance of the advisors and all participants, the contents of this report would not represent the insights, opinions, experiences, values, and vision of the victim services system within the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma. The final report also benefited from the input of numerous federal, tribal, and state administrators, subject matter experts, and consultants who participated in meetings and conference workshops and provided informal feedback as the process progressed.

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Most of all, we thank the many victims/survivors from whom we learn every day. We also wish to express enormous gratitude for the plethora of professionals who came before us and founded the core of the victim services system we currently enjoy. Gratitude is also given to all current members of the victim services system who tirelessly engage in supporting victims throughout the tribal and state jurisdictions. We extend our appreciation to the professionals entering the victim service field who will nurture and grow the field in response to the needs identified.

Finally, a work of this scale cannot include the names of every person who contributed in some way. For all whose names do not appear here, but without whose assistance Vision for Victim Safety would not have drawn to a fruitful conclusion, we also offer our deepest appreciation.



**Jennifer, our friend
Your spirit fills these pages
We honor you now**

As we step through the Threshold of Transformation and support movement from victimhood to authenticity, we are reminded of shining examples of Oklahomans who have positively influenced our state and our work. While editing this document, one author was watching the 90th Annual Oklahoma Hall of Fame Banquet & Induction Ceremony and was duly impressed by the Class of 2017. Inspired by the solid foundation formed by the strength of Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher and the creativity and diplomacy of Sequoyah. Inspired by the perseverance and integrity demonstrated by Justice Tom Colbert and Congressman Tom Cole. Inspired by the self-sufficiency, ingenuity, and sense of hospitality exhibited by Phil Parduhn and Hal Smith. Inspired by Shannon Miller and Bob Funk to follow seemingly impossible dreams, meet the needs of our communities, and always give back.

As we humbly strive to improve the Oklahoma Victim Service System, we can look to the 2017 Hall of Fame inductees and the 691 individuals who have previously received this commendation for inspiration to overcome the barriers to justice and the opportunities for growth we now face. Let us not increase "The Price of Regret," to which emcee Vince Gill referred in his tribute song. Let us no longer treat one another with disrespect, let us honor our authentic selves and the authentic selves of those we serve.

**"WE ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE LAST PERSON
WE HELPED IN OUR LIVES."**

– BOB FUNK

