

Threshold of TRANSFORMATION

VISION FOR VICTIM SAFETY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Where We Are Now. . .

Historic Overview of Culturally Diverse Population

If we are to create an environment of safety, security, and stability for the next generation of Oklahoma residents, we must address the complex issues which are residuary from the legacy of racism.

Providers

Based on provider responses, domestic violence cases are NOT handled in a timely fashion by the Justice System. Victim witness coordinators seem to increase safety and security for victims. Modified court systems must be implemented to improve perpetrator accountability.

No agencies reported having policies addressing child sexual assault, substance abuse, or mental health issues. Nor did any agency report having policies regarding Jane Doe reporting, board and staff diversity, crime victim compensation, going to ER with victims, preventing re-traumatization, documentation requirements, free forensic exams, or mandatory training for SA advocates.

Current Status

Domestic Violence homicides accounted for 19.5% of all homicide deaths in Oklahoma. We persistently rank in the top 10 nationally for women killed by men in single victim, single offender incidents.

Between 96 - 98 percent of Oklahoma domestic violence victims, who also became homicide victims, never spoke to a trained domestic violence advocate.

More than one in three Native American or Alaska Native women will be raped. Most do not seek justice because they know they will be met with inaction or indifference.

Federal, Tribal & State Governments

The systems through which we attempt to provide victim services to those who have suffered incidents of IPV were created in an atmosphere of power and control. This atmosphere continues to cloud the justice we seek to provide.

Victims/Survivors

Victims/survivors clearly stated change is needed. The strategic plan needs to affect real, positive change; it should not just be lip service.

Justice

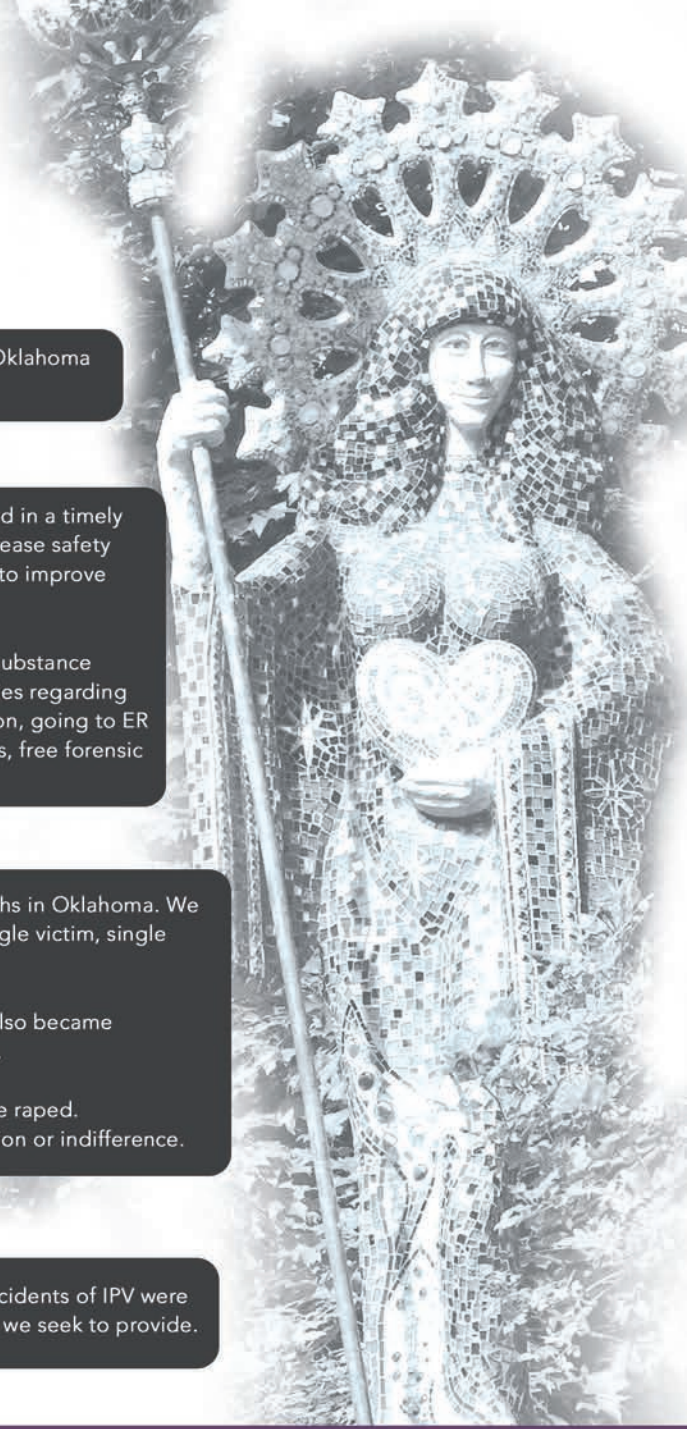
Victims put their trust in the civil protection order system, and when the system fails to provide reliable issuance and enforcement of protection orders, it exposes victims to risk and uncertainty.

Most people participating in the community assessment process believe local politics affect the arrest rate and the filing of charges for protective order violations.

Victims expressed grave concerns with jurisdictional issues, such as: "I was drugged and can't tell them exactly where it happened. Why is that my problem?"

Other Community Members

A victim is more likely to receive effective and appropriate help when the community surrounds her with the support and services she needs to be safe and secure.



When we embrace our uniqueness, and realize what we bring to the table. . .we are better able to articulate how we, and our spheres of influence, can move the Oklahoma Victim Service System closer to the vision of Safety, Security, and Stability

The Threshold of Transformation: Vision for Victim Safety serves as a framework for education, a self-exploration guide for all victim service providers, and a tool to bring communities together to address interpersonal violence which has routinely ravaged our state.

The plan outlines seven recommendations complete with objectives and implementation suggestions. Additionally, the plan details roles and compositions of implementation teams deemed necessary to successfully put the plan into effect throughout the geographic boundaries of Oklahoma.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

RECOMMENDATION #1 Establish Threshold of Transformation: Vision For Victim Safety Strategic Planning And Implementation Leadership Team To Support Governance Grounded In Cultural Sensitivity, Diversity, And Sustainability Guided By A Neutral Convener.

RECOMMENDATION #2 Implementation Leadership Team, comprised of the Project Director and Cultural Sensitivity, Diversity, Quality, and Evaluation (CSDQE) Team, will Engage in Branding/Marketing the Oklahoma Victim Service System.

RECOMMENDATION #3 Convene an Oklahoma Coordinated Community Response Team (OCCRT).

RECOMMENDATION #4 Engage and Convene Advocacy Organizations Who Currently Serve Populations Identified As Underserved Within The Victim Service System.



IMPLEMENTATION LEADERSHIP TEAM WILL CULTIVATE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. . .

FOR . . .

- Victims/Survivors
- Service Providers
- Justice System
- Communities

WHICH ARE . . .

- Victim-Centered
- Evidence-Based
- Trauma-Informed
- Culturally Appropriate
- Founded on Best Practices

WHICH ADDRESS. . .

RECOMMENDATION #5 Criminal Justice Response.

RECOMMENDATION #6 Program Services.

RECOMMENDATION #7 Prevention Efforts Across Numerous Community Sectors.

Aza Represents. . .
Safety, Security, and Stability

TO ACHIEVE SAFETY, SECURITY, AND STABILITY FOR ALL VICTIMS OF INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE:

The Oklahoma Victim Service System will encourage and support prevention and on-going community services which are victim-centered, culturally appropriate, and are founded on evidence-based best practices.



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