This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-TA-AX-K012 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this (document/program/exhibit) are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.
BWJP offers training, technical assistance, policy analysis, and consultation on the most promising practices of the criminal and civil justice systems in addressing intimate partner violence. Staff members have particular expertise in assisting jurisdictions around the country to implement coordinated interagency responses to IPV that maximize victim safety and offender accountability.

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Acknowledgements

- Robert Walker and Jeb Messer
- Teri Faragher
- Many who tested and provided feedback
- Stalking Resource Center
- Battered Women’s Justice Project

Objectives

1. Describe Stalking and Harassment Assessment and Risk Profile
2. Talk about how SHARP might be useful for communities in addressing stalking
3. Do an online demonstration
Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that induces fear or concern for safety.

Prison without Bars...

Stalking is often dismissed, denied, and minimized.
Stalking as Risk

What’s in focus?

Stalking Assessment?

1. Stalking as one of several risk factors to assess:
   - Violence
   - Lethality
   - Repeat assault
   - Criminal justice recidivism

2. Stalking as a risk
   - Features of a stalking situation
Assessment
• Informal
• Formal

Stalking Assessment
• Formal
  1. Guidelines for Stalking Assessment and Management (SAM; Kropp, Hart, & Lyon, 2008)
  2. The Stalking Risk Profile (SRP; MacKenzie et al., 2009)
  3. The Stalking Risk Check List (Sheridan & Roberts, 2011)

SAM & SRP
• Structured clinical judgment approach
  – Developed based on research and clinical literature
• Strong emphasis on management of stalker
  – Can be invaluable in assessing the stalker, managing the stalker, and helping the victim with safety
• Time and resource-intensive
  – Cost $$$
• Each has unique framework
SAM

• Assess:
  – (1) nature of the stalking behavior (select tactics and patterns);
  – (2) offender risk factors (psychosocial adjustment and background); and,
  – (3) victim vulnerability factors (adjustment and background of victim).

• Consider
  – various risk scenarios with respect to the nature, severity, imminence, and frequency/duration of future stalking and violence.

SRP

• Identify stalker motivational type:
  – (a) rejected stalker;
  – (b) resentful stalker;
  – (c) intimacy seeker;
  – (d) incompetent suitor; and,
  – (e) the predatory stalker.

• Assess risk of:
  – violence,
  – persistence,
  – reoccurrence, and
  – psychosocial damage to stalkers

Stalking Risk Checklist

• Development
  – Web based survey responses analyzed (n=1,500+)
  – Logistic regression → stalking violence; serious violence

• Access
  – 11 yes/no questions with information
  – Free
Stalking Risk Checklist

- Four primary dimensions
  - Victim fear
  - Past history of violence
  - Stalker substance use
  - Selected tactics within the situation
    - Harassment, vandalism/property damage, visiting victim 3+ times, loitering, harassed third party, acted out violently toward others, persuaded others to help stalk, threatened to harm

SHARP was developed as a complementary tool
SHARP Goals

1. Assess the big picture of the stalking situation;
2. Use a risk profile to contextualize the situation and examine a wide range of harms; and,
3. Educate about risks and offer some safety suggestions

SHARP

• Development
  – Conceptual framework based on current research
  – Piloting and feedback (professionals across the nation, Stalking Resource Center, Battered Women’s Justice Project, victims)
  – Feedback level 2 phase

• Accessibility
  – Cost, resources, time
    • Online, personalized (user, name/initials)
      – Web-based tool (43 main questions)
  – Victims, professionals, friends and family
    • No training/specialized knowledge required
• Provides a narrative of big picture
  – Articulate the story with a short summary
  • Sound bites

• Third party perspective
  • Self-distancing/pull out of the emotion
    – bigger picture perspective

• Provides a safety management narrative
  – safety suggestions tailored to responses

SHARP Assumptions
1. Stalking behaviors are varied, dynamic, and complex and are intentional

2. Target fear accumulates over time

3. Stalking risk is bigger than violence
4. Harm, the devastating impact on life from stalking, is cumulative over time

“The money melted away, debt mounted, work was disrupted, friends were tired of the drama, and there was always some new game to be played that provoked someone profoundly unstable.”

--Helen DeWitt, London Review of Books
SHARP Overview & Framework

www.CoerciveControl.org

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OutrageUs - Ageing Exchange Network

Women's Federation - Domestic Violence, Family Violence, Sexual Violence, Elder Abuse, Gender Violence

For more information please visit: OutrageUs.org, GenderViolence.org, ElderAbuse.org
Getting started

• Gender of offender/suspect
• Offender name or initials [Mark]
• Offender age

Getting started

• Target gender
• Target name or initials [Teri or T.F.]
• Target age
• Relationship between offender and target

Getting started

• Who is answering the questions
  – Target
    • Will tailor questions to say:
      – Have [you] experienced something from [Mark]?
  – Friend/family
  – Professional (agency?)
    • Will tailor questions to say:
      – Has [T.F. or Teri] experienced something from [Mark]?
**Key Components**

- **Intentional course of conduct**
- Makes an implicit or explicit threat that causes reasonable fear or concern for safety
- And is unwanted

---

**Intentional Course of Conduct**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SLII Strategies</th>
<th>Duration, Intensity, &amp; Frequency (DIF) Patterns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**“Reasonable” Fear**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implicit and Explicit Threat</th>
<th>Fear</th>
<th>Context of Threat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Unwanted**

- Victim Resistance and Stalker Persistence

---
Show how stalkers are maintaining an unwanted relationship with their target

A stalker's imagination begins where ours ends...

SLII Strategies (yes/no/suspected)

Follow
Watch
Wait
Show up
Tracking software
Obtain information about target
Proxy stalking

Unwanted contact at home, work, and other places
Phone calls
Property invasion
Public humiliation
Harass friends and family

Threats
Property damage
Forced confrontations
Threaten or actually harm self
Threats to target about harming others

Financial & work sabotage
Ruin reputation
 Custody interference
Physical/sexual attack
Keep from leaving
Road rage
Attack friends and family
Intensity (yes/no)

- Does [Mark] regularly contact or harass [you] (yes/no)
  - in more than one way
  - in more than one location (other than through phone or computer)
  - Has behavior increased in frequency or severity

Frequency (days)

- In a typical month how many days does [Mark]:
  - Initiate unwanted contact you
  - Directly approach/confront you
  - Significantly interfere with your life
Big Picture

SLII Strategies
Duration
Intensity
Frequency

Patterns over time

Patterns
Show
Intent

“Reasonable” Fear

| Implicit and Explicit Threats | Fear | Context of Threats |

Implicit and Explicit Threats (yes/no)
Implicit threats

Has [Mark] left objects, made gestures, or said things that were threatening but were not direct threats

57%

Threats to hurt or kill

Next time I see you I will beat you

You will suffer my wrath

You will die

I hope you suffer for the rest of your short pathetic life

If I can’t have you nobody will

Has [Mark] described in detail how [he] plans to harm you?
Other threats…

To harm or harass others

Destroy property, harm pets, or sabotage you in other ways?

Had other people like his friends or family members threaten, intimidate, stalk or attack you

Fear

- Harm/harassment of close others
- Physical harm/death
- Social/financial harm
- Ongoing harassment & control
How do you know if someone is afraid?

- Life Sabotage
- Witnesses
- Extraordinary efforts (time, $$)
- Life/personality changes
Unwanted: Victim resistance and stalker persistence (yes/no)

Notification that harassment and stalking is unwanted?

Court order?

Notification that no contact wanted?

Court order violation?

Persistence?

Stalking and protective orders

50% Stalk before a protective order

35%-45% Persist

Stalking before a PO is associated with stalking after a PO

Persistant stalking after is associated with PO violations and violence

55%-65% Desist

Stalking stopped after the PO
Context of Threats

Credibility/Vulnerability

No; Yes, Suspected, Unknown

History Mindset

Dynamic Environment

Who is the stalker and what is he capable of?

Violence and control/jealousy history with target and with others

Criminal history, substance use problems, and/or serious mental health issues

Suicide attempts or thoughts
Who is the stalker and what is he capable of?

Technology expertise

Possess guns, obsessed with weapons, military/law enforcement background

What is the stalker mindset?

To destroy or damage someone is power

Justification

Consequences no longer matter

Motivation

Revenge; Blame

Rejection; humiliation

What is the stalker mindset?

- Do messages from [Mark] suggest [he] feels rejected, humiliated, or degraded in some way by you?
- Has [Mark] indicated [he] wants revenge or blames you for ruining [his] life?
- Does [Mark] seem unconcerned about severe consequences such as going to jail or dying?
**What is the dynamic?**

- Overwhelmed
- Don’t know what to do
- Will try anything to get peace and/or to protect their loved ones

**Things that influence dynamic**

- Partner versus Non-partner
- DIF

**Assess dynamic**

- Are there any upcoming events/situations that particularly concern you about triggering an escalation of [Mark’s] behavior or violence?
- Do you feel you might have sent [Mark] mixed messages? (e.g., like telling [him] that you don’t want any contact but responding in some way to [Mark])?
- Do you believe [Mark] is aware that the things [he] is doing upsets or bothers you?
- Do you sometimes feel bad for [Mark] because [he] is depressed, had a hard life, had something difficult happen in his/her life, uses substances or for some other reason?
Is the environment facilitating the stalking?

- Do you feel there are limited or no consequences for [Mark’s] stalking/harassing/threatening behavior toward you?
- Do you feel you are more vulnerable to [Mark’s] stalking, harassing, or threatening behavior because there are things about the environment that limit your ability to be safe?

Vulnerability

- You work or go to school at the same place
- [Mark] is in a position of authority over you
- [Mark] lives or works near you
- Have child(ren) in common or have child visitation/custody/support issues
- You live in unsafe housing
- You have limited access to resources
- You are isolated
- You have limited access to safety measures

Open-ended questions

- Anything to add about unique aspects of the case?
- Any specific safety concerns (or recommendations for safety) to add?
Risk Factor Profile:
12 Basic Factors to Consider in Assessing The Situation

What is the situation?

1. Course of Conduct
   - DIF patterns of SLII strategies
     - Special attention to frequency and intensity

2. Escalation
   - Upcoming triggers

3. Nature and context of threats
   - Violence ideation (detailed, graphic); has followed through on threats before
What is the stalkers mindset?

4. Court order violations
5. Stalker motive
   - Motivation (rejection, humiliation); justification (blame, revenge); last resort thinking
6. Proxy stalking
   - Involving others in the stalking
7. In possession or obsessed with weapons

What is the history?

8. History of partner control, jealousy, and violence
9. History of violence and abuse to others
10. Criminal history, substance use problems and mental health issues

How vulnerable is the victim?

11. Technical expertise
12. Victim vulnerability factors (environment and dynamic)
Narrative Reports

SHARP Narrative & Risk Profile

1. Course of conduct
2. Duration, intensity, and frequency
3. Threats
4. Fear/concern for safety
5. Resistance and persistence
6. Context
7. Risk Profile
   - (? Risk factors out of 12, reassessment over time)
• Incidents of stalking and harassing behavior are like SNAPSHOTS
  • Friends, family and professionals are more likely to dismiss incidents out of context or suggest inadequate responses
  • Incident limited focus by helping system = Incident limited response, interventions & safety planning
  • Snapshots may suggest an underlying narrative, but do not provide one
  • SHARP takes victims’ experiences from snapshot (static) to film (dynamic).

• SHARP can help victims & those who support/protect victims create the FILM... the whole dynamic narrative. The narrative is:
  • Powerful (validates, explains fear & impact)
  • Presents a more complete picture (AHA!)
  • Accounts for the dynamic nature of stalking ("Where is this going?")
  • SHARP provides a way for us to understand and respond to the chaos of stalking

How is it useful?
• Victims (clarify, validate & empower)
• Victim Advocates (advocacy & safety planning tool; understand victims’ experiences, identify resources/options;)
• Law Enforcement (identify patterns/course of conduct, sources of evidence/witnesses, potential interventions, avenues to enhance safety/protection)
• Prosecutors (the narrative, the context, guidance to build case)
How is it useful?

- Judges, P&P, Corrections, Therapist…
- Family, friends, employers, educational institutions, faith communities…
- CCRs (identify breakdowns/barriers/gaps; tool for case review teams; guide for program development, encourage community collaborations)
- SHARP useful in many ways by many people… but it is the VICTIM’S narrative. Only victims can create a full narrative and it should be directed by them.

Empowerment through Advocacy

Demonstration
Julia and Justin

- Julia (22 years old) and Justin (21 years old) dated for 2 years.
- Julia broke up with Justin because he had a bad temper. During their relationship there were times he punched the car windshield out and punched holes in the walls of her home. Over time she noticed he became increasingly angry.
- As soon as they broke up Justin began calling and texting her up to 50 times a day. She initially tried to talk to him to calm him down so she could get through the day, but the stalking escalated and the nasty messages began. He called her names and repeatedly said he was “going to put a bullet in her head,” that he was “going to continue to follow her around and find her wherever she goes” and that “she is making him call her by acting the way she has been acting.” He also left messages suggesting he was following her.

- He called her at work and also called her co-workers. Because of his repeated calls to her work she got in trouble at her job. He even called and texted her mother.
- Julia felt bad for Justin because he lost his job and his family does not have much to do with him.
- After several weeks of this she filed for a protective order. While at the courthouse, after the hearing, he called her names and used his hand to gesture across his throat as if he were cutting it.
- Since the protective order was issued he continues following, calling and texting her. He would leave texts and messages suggesting that she was violating the protective order by constantly contacting him. She felt this would make others not believe what was happening to her.

WWW.CoerciveControl.org
SHARP
Summary

• SHARP is a tool
  – Assess and understand the big picture of the stalking situation AND of the cumulative harm

• Purpose is education and information
  – Not to predict or give a score

• Seeking feedback
SHARP

Thank You

www.CoerciveControl.org
SHARP

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