



**THE BATTERED WOMEN'S JUSTICE PROJECT  
PRESENTS  
VETERANS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:  
IMPROVING SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INTERVENTION  
OCTOBER 15 & 16, 2018 • JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**

**AGENDA**

This training focuses on military and veteran-related domestic violence and best practices for screening, assessment, and intervention. The training will be tailored for those working in and with the criminal courts on cases that involve military veteran defendants with a particular focus on educating Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) staff, domestic violence court staff, and community-based victim advocates.

**Objectives:**

As a result of this cross-discipline training, attendees will be better able to:

1. Describe how veteran and military-related domestic violence is both similar to and differs from what occurs in the general population.
2. Properly screen, assess, and intervene in cases involving military and veteran-related domestic violence in a way that helps improve victim safety and offender accountability.
3. Identify the roles of victim advocates with victims & survivors and determine how to best integrate advocates within the criminal justice and VTC processes.
4. Create linkages and begin collaboration across different systems that provide services to veteran and military-related victims and offenders.

**Day 1, Monday, October 15, 2018**

**7:30-8:45**      **Check-in/Registration**  
**Outside Florida Ballroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**8:45-9:00**      **Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Comments**  
*Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program,  
Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA*  
**All sessions held in Florida Ballroom**

**9:00-9:30 Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Risk**

*Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program, Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA and Connie Sponsler-Garcia, Senior Consultant, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN*

This session will provide foundational information on domestic violence including terminology, gender differences, and data on the general, military, and veteran populations. It will then introduce attendees to common risk factors for perpetration and victimization and those that are significant for lethality in intimate relationships.

**9:30-10:00 Criminal Justice Response to Domestic Violence**

*Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program, Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA*

There are multiple players and agencies that come in-contact with domestic violence victims and offenders. Their roles in the criminal justice response may intersect, overlap, and conflict.

**10:00-10:15 Break**

**10:15-11:00 Domestic Violence Courts**

*Rebecca Thomforde Hauser, Associate Director, Domestic Violence Programs, Center for Court Innovation*

Domestic Violence Courts are specifically designed to promote victim safety and defendant accountability, informed judicial decision-making, consistent handling of all criminal domestic violence matters, efficient case processing, and a concentration of social services for victims and their children. These specialized courts can also build upon other legal responses to domestic violence, including mandatory arrest, a dedicated domestic violence unit within the prosecutor's office, and evidence-based prosecution.

**11:00-11:15 Discussion**

**11:15-11:45 Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs)**

*Honorable Vance Peterson, ARNG (Ret.), Spokane County District Court, Spokane, WA and Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program, Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA*

Veterans Treatment Courts – modeled after drug and mental health courts – focus on treatment and accountability for former and sometimes current military service members. They are characterized by regular court appearances, substance

abuse and mental health treatment, monitoring of compliance, mentoring, and connection to the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare and benefits.

**11:45-12:00 Discussion**

**12:00-1:15 Lunch on your own**

**1:15-2:00 Victims and Advocacy Services**

*Connie Sponsler-Garcia, Senior Consultant, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN*

This session will examine victim behavior, factors common among victims in general and those specific to military and veteran-related victims, and why victims often do not report domestic violence or minimize its existence. It will then introduce attendees to victim advocacy, how advocates minimize risk and promote safety, and what role advocates can and should play in the criminal justice and VTC processes.

**2:00-2:15 Discussion**

**2:15-2:30 Break**

**2:30-3:00 Screening, Assessment, and Eligibility**

*Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program, Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA and Connie Sponsler-Garcia, Senior Consultant, Battered Women's Justice Project, Minneapolis, MN*

Assessing risk is critical in domestic violence cases. Subjective determinations of risk for conditions of release, bail, punishment, and eligibility for programs such as VTCs can decrease victim safety and result in improper intervention. This session will present assessment tools that are utilized at different stages in the criminal justice process and discuss how programs such as VTCs should refine eligibility criteria to properly consider risk.

**3:00-3:15 Discussion**

**3:15-4:30 Service-related Co-occurring Conditions and Domestic Violence**

*Brian Clubb, JD, USMCR (Ret.), Coordinator-Military & Veterans Advocacy Program, Battered Women's Justice Project, Stafford, VA*

Justice-involved veterans are often assessed as having co-occurring conditions including depression, substance abuse, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Such conditions are identified as having a relationship to domestic violence perpetration, but assessment and contextual

analysis are key to determining proper intervention and treatment. This session will provide information on these conditions, explore their intersection with domestic violence, and examine how to differentiate their symptoms from common domestic violence tactics. A video interview of a combat veteran and domestic violence perpetrator will be utilized to conduct an in-depth analysis of the intersection of co-occurring conditions. The session will end with a discussion of context and contextual analysis and how such a process can assist in providing more effective intervention.

**4:30-4:45 Discussion**

## **Day 2, Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

**8:15-8:45 Sign-in**

**8:45-9:30 Firearms and Domestic Violence-Related Prohibitions**

*David Keck, JD, Director, National Domestic Violence and Firearms Resource Center, Battered Women's Justice Project, Oshkosh, WI*

Firearms are a significant risk factor for the occurrence of domestic violence and by far the most prevalent weapon used in intimate partner homicides. As such, the criminal justice system must consider access and possession, both while individuals are justice-involved as well as upon program completion or release from probation or parole. This session will examine the reason for domestic violence-specific legal prohibitions on firearms, what impact protection orders and domestic violence convictions have on firearms rights, and what actions the courts and VTCs – alone and in conjunction with others – can take to improve victim safety.

**9:30-9:45 Discussion**

**9:45-10:00 Break**

**10:00-11:00 Supervision of Domestic Violence Offenders**

*James Henderson, MSW, Coordinator, Probation Training and Technical Assistance Project, Battered Women's Justice Project, Grass Lake, MI*

This session will examine factors involved in supervising domestic violence offenders and how policies and practices can enhance or impede both victim safety and offender accountability. Participants will learn the concept of Therapeutic Jurisprudence and the importance of a victim-centered approach, tools for managing offenders and assessing risk, and how enhanced collaboration

with all community partners, through assessments and monitoring, ultimately lead to community safety.

**11:00-11:15 Discussion**

**11:15-11:45 Offender Intervention Programs**

*James Henderson, MSW, Coordinator, Probation Training and Technical Assistance Project, Battered Women's Justice Project, Grass Lake, MI*

Offender intervention programs help people address the beliefs that allow for abusive behaviors. This session will examine the history of these programs, concepts common to most of them, and provide research on their effectiveness.

**11:45-1:00 Lunch on your own**

**1:00-2:00 Offender Intervention Programs (Cont'd)**

*Stephanie Robinson, LCSW, CIV, TM, Family Advocacy Program, Eglin Air Force Base, FL and Brian Kurz, LCSW, Orlando VA Medical Center, Orlando, FL*

In a continuation of the previous session, presenters will discuss two specific programs developed and in use for veterans: *Change Step*, grounded in a traditional men's program curriculum, but one that uses the language and tenor of military culture to serve veterans, and *Strength at Home*, developed specifically for veterans and expanding in use throughout the VA healthcare system.

**2:00-2:15 Discussion**

**2:15-2:30 Break**

**2:30-3:30 Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Services: The Intimate Partner Violence Assistance and Veterans Justice Outreach Programs**

*Sherri Claudio, LCSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, Orlando VA Medical Center, Orlando, FL and Viviana Figueroa, LCSW, BCD, IPV Coordinator, Orlando VA Medical Center, Orlando, FL*

This session will examine services and support available to veterans through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration (VHA) by focusing on two of its programs. The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program coordinates closely with local criminal justice systems and VTCs to connect veterans to substance abuse, mental health, and other healthcare services. The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Assistance Program addresses the identification of intimate partner violence among veterans by expanding screening, prevention, and intervention services and strengthening partnerships with community resources.

**3:30-4:00      Discussion and Jurisdictional Action Plans**

Attendees and teams will review information presented during the training and discussion periods and will identify key issues to address in their home jurisdictions and how they may take action on them.

**4:00              Training concludes**

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