

## Strengthening Court and Community Collaboration:

### What Does It Mean to Be a Grant Partner

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## Enhancing Collaboration The “C” Word

### What is Inter-Agency Collaboration?

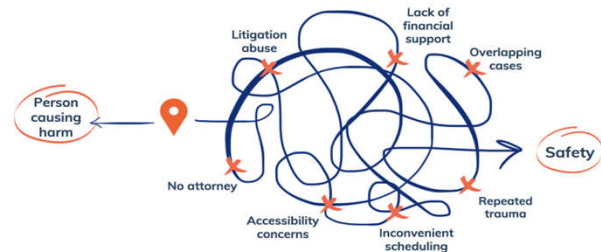
Interagency collaboration in systems of care is "the process of agencies and families joining together for the purpose of interdependent problem solving that focuses on improving services to children and families" (Hodges, Nesman, & Hernandez, 1999, p.8).

A more general definition is offered by Linden (2002, p. 7), who states, "collaboration occurs when people from different organizations, produce something through joint effort, resources, and decision making, and share ownership of the final product or service."

3

### The Court Process in DV Cases

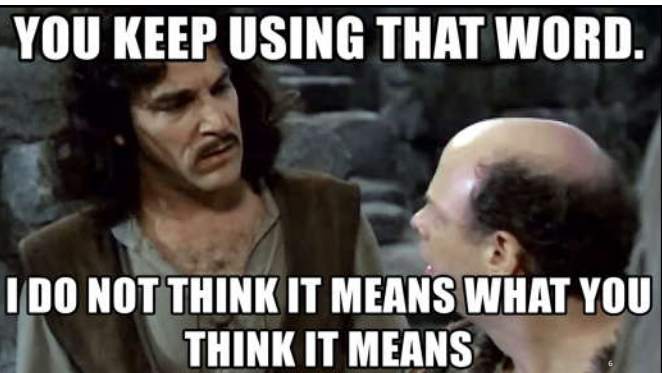
Why is collaboration important in domestic violence cases?



### Why is Collaboration Important in DV Cases?

- Facilitate communication and information-sharing
- Promote safe and consistent practice
- Identify and effectively address systemic problems and challenges
- Learn from and support each other
- Support individual and agency-wide morale
- Share resources

4



## Other important “C” words

- ▶ Coordination
- ▶ Commitment
- ▶ Cooperation



## Required Partnership

All applicants for the Justice for Families Program must include formal partnerships with both:

A nonprofit, nongovernmental, or tribal domestic violence or sexual assault victim service provider **and**

A court (does not include a police department, prosecutor’s office, or district attorney)

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8

## Self-Reflection

In your workbook, respond to the following prompts:

- ▶ What does court and community collaboration mean to you?
- ▶ What does that look like in practice (consider who it includes, their specific roles, and the how)?

9

## What Can JFF Do For You?

MOU Court Partners have access to:



- ▶ Multimedia and written products, including domestic violence court proceedings, toolkits, bench cards
- ▶ Best practices for handling cases involving intimate partner violence across various case types
- ▶ Linkages to your peers in other jurisdictions
- ▶ Training aimed at frontline court staff and court administrators
- ▶ Multidisciplinary training on procedural justice, risk assessment and lethality, abusive partner intervention, coordinated community responses, and many more!

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10

## Peer-to-Peer Discussion

- ▶ What are some **challenges** you face in your role?
- ▶ What can you **accomplish** through your role to support this project?
- ▶ What do you **need** to be successful in your role?



11

## Common Barriers to Collaboration

- Not understanding each others’ roles/practices
- Turf-ism
- Personality differences
- Political conflicts (‘The blame game’)
- Lack of written protocols and procedures
- Limitations on time and other resources
- Burnout and secondary traumatization

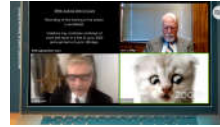


12

## Another “C” Word

Can you guess it?

### Trends since COVID that impact partnerships



- Shift to virtual court hearings; shift back to in-person hearings
- More virtual meetings and demands on our time that don't offer the same opportunities for meaningful connection
- Staff turnover through retirements of people with institutional knowledge or deep experience in the field
- Ongoing agency turnover
- Understaffing and over-capacity
- Staff burnout

### Every JFF Project

Faces challenges due to changes in the community, staff turnover, different needs from when the grant was written, etc.



At times, you will need to: ✓ PIVOT

## Team Discussion

- ▶ What makes a successful collaboration?
- ▶ Share a few examples of these traits.

## Ways to Facilitate a Successful Collaboration

- Get to know each other!
- Develop shared goals for the work
- Co-create MOUs, referral/reporting processes, policies and procedures, etc.
- Cross-training/interdisciplinary training
- Facilitate individual and team healing

## Ways to Facilitate a Successful Collaboration (cont.)

- Conduct a needs assessment together
- Site visits and program/court observation
- Have rotating co-facilitators and/or locations for collaborative meetings
- Facilitate a system mapping activity and/or SWOT/SCOR analysis

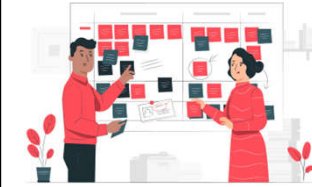
## Tips to Keep in Mind

- ✓ Build in regular and ongoing communication and stakeholder meetings with project and MOU partners
- ✓ Free training & TA is available for your court and MOU partners regardless of purpose area



## Team Mapping

Purpose



Strategic framework to align teams, increase cohesion, and promote productive team culture.

### Team Mapping Instructions

At each stage, please do the following:



1. REFLECT



2. SHARE



3. CANVAS

**Note:** Reach consensus on 1. People and Roles; 2. Goals; 4. Purpose; 5. Values; 9. Guidelines and Culture.

## Completing Your Team Canvas

### ► Suggested Timing

- Complete steps 1 through 4 during this session
- Use Team Planning (Day 2 and Day 3) to complete the remaining Canvas

### ► Submit your completed Team Canvas at the end of the orientation

- Email us a legible photo or typed document of your team's completed Canvas

### ► Reminders

- Use this time for productive discussion.
- Do not simply restate your project narrative. See the forest for the trees.

