



If I had one more day...

Findings and Recommendations from the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review
December 2006

By Kelly Starr and Jake Fawcett for the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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If I had one more day...

"If I could be so lucky and Angela had one more day, perhaps she would be alive today."

Charleen Holcomb, mother of Angela Marie Holcomb-[Alden] (1971–2003)

The title of this year's report comes from the words of a mother whose daughter, Angela Marie Holcomb-(Alden), was killed by her estranged husband in July 2003. Angela's name was included on a list of people killed by domestic violence abusers on the cover of our 2004 report, Every Life Lost Is a Call for Change. Angela's mother, Charleen Holcomb, contacted the Domestic Violence Fatality Review after seeing our report to let us know that we had incorrectly listed the date of Angela's death as July 5th. In fact, Angela died one day earlier, on July 4th, 2003. In her letter to us, Charleen reflected, "If I could be so lucky and Angela had one more day, perhaps she would be alive today." Charleen went on to say, "I've read your report...finding the facts revolting...leaving me wondering what I can do to help others be safe from domestic violence."

Angela had separated from her abusive husband and was trying to find a life free of violence for herself and her children. In the months before her murder, Angela contacted the police on three separate occasions when her husband threatened or assaulted her. Following the murder, journalists reported that Angela's three police reports were among 184 domestic violence cases prosecutors had not looked at due to a backlog of cases awaiting review and a stack of case files that had been misplaced. Angela reached out for help and she did not get it. Consequently, her two children, her mother, her grandmother, her two sisters, her brother, her entire family, and her community are left without her.

Unfortunately, Angela's story is not unique. Through the Fatality Review, communities around Washington State have been examining domestic violence homicides since 1997, and bringing to light the system failures these deaths expose. After ten years, we continue to see many of the same issues as when the project began. Much more needs to be done—we simply cannot wait one more day.

There is hope in Angela's story as well. Angela's mother did not just wonder about what she could do to help others—she took action. She became involved with local domestic violence programs as a volunteer. Her commitment to help others, to end domestic violence, to promote change in her community honors the memory of her daughter, inspires others, and creates a safer world for Angela's and all of our children.

We do not have one more day for Angela and all those who have been killed by domestic violence abusers. We do have one more day for all of the domestic violence survivors in our family, among our friends, co-workers, neighbors, and our community.

*The question, then, is this: **What will we do today?***

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We would like to offer our sincere gratitude to the domestic violence survivors, and the families and friends of domestic violence homicide victims, who generously shared their personal experiences with us and provided insights and perspectives to guide our efforts.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review conducts extensive data collection and analysis to generate the statistics discussed in this report. We gratefully acknowledge the **Gender and Justice Commission of the Washington State Supreme Court** for funding the design and implementation of a new Fatality Review database and **Communities Connect Network** for funding consultation services that ensure the integrity of our data analysis. We also thank the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health, Region X** for supporting our efforts to conduct research exploring the connection between suicide and other untimely deaths and domestic violence.

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In This Report

Executive Summary A brief overview of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review's goals, key findings and recommendations, strategies for how to use this report as a tool for implementing change, and a complete list of all the recommendations contained in this report.

Overview of Fatalities A quantitative summary of domestic violence fatalities in Washington State, including descriptive information such as who was killed, how frequently homicidal domestic violence abusers were also suicidal, and what weapons were used.

Spotlight on Suicide: Exploring the Connection Between Suicide and Domestic Violence

An exploratory study conducted by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review to estimate the number of suicide victims who had a history of domestic violence.

Findings and Recommendations Findings and recommendations based on the eleven domestic violence fatalities reviewed in depth by Fatality Review panels between July 2004 and June 2006. Each chapter includes narrative explaining the findings, followed by detailed recommendations which respond directly to those findings.

Epilogue Kelsey and Hayley Byrne, ages 11 and 9, were killed by their father in November 2004. The epilogue was written by their mother, Suzanne Dawson.

Appendices Appendix A explains the history of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review and how we identify and review domestic violence fatalities. Appendix B provides a glossary of terms used in this report. Appendix C contains a summary of key recommendations and data from this report in an easy-to-use photocopy format. Appendix D is an index of the topic areas covered in Fatality Review reports.

Definition of a domestic violence fatality The Domestic Violence Fatality Review defines a domestic violence fatality as a death which arises from an abuser's efforts to seek power and control over their intimate partner. Using this definition, domestic violence fatalities include:

1. All homicides in which the victim was a current or former intimate partner of the perpetrator.
2. Homicides of people other than the intimate partner which occur in the context of domestic violence, or in the midst of a perpetrator's attempt to kill their intimate partner. For example, situations in which an abuser kills their current/former intimate partner's friend, family member, or new intimate partner, or those in which a law enforcement officer is killed while intervening in a domestic violence incident.
3. Homicides occurring as an extension of or in response to ongoing intimate partner abuse. For example, when an ex-spouse kills their children in order to exact revenge on their partner.
4. Suicides which occur in the context of intimate partner violence.

Relationship of this report to previous reports The Domestic Violence Fatality Review has published three previous reports.¹ This report builds on the findings and recommendations issued in these reports and is intended to complement, not replace, them.

¹ *Honoring Their Lives, Learning from Their Deaths* (2000); *"Tell the World What Happened to Me"* (2002); *Every Life Lost Is a Call for Change* (2004). All reports are available at www.wscadv.org.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Between January 1, 1997 and June 30, 2006, 359 people were killed by domestic violence abusers in Washington State. In 2005, 50% of women who were murdered in Washington were killed by their current or former husband or boyfriend.¹ The Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) examines domestic violence-related fatalities statewide in order to advance thinking about how to improve our communities' responses to domestic violence. We draw attention to the loss of life at the hands of abusers for two reasons. First, to recognize and honor the lives lost and insist that the domestic violence victims, their children, and their friends and family members killed by abusers are not forgotten. Second, to direct attention to the struggles and challenges faced by all of the domestic violence victims in our state who are living with abuse and can still be helped by our efforts to respond more effectively to domestic violence.

The DVFR brings together locally based, multi-disciplinary review panels for a detailed examination of individual domestic violence fatalities. These panels focus on the events leading up to the homicide; they seek to identify gaps in policy, practice, training, resources, information, and collaboration. What we have learned from these in-depth reviews is that domestic violence fatalities are not isolated, inexplicable tragedies. They are often preceded by multiple attempts by the victim to find safety and support, and multiple opportunities for other people to respond to the abuser's violence. All of the homicide perpetrators are responsible for their actions and ultimately responsible for the murder(s) they committed. However, the responsibility for responding to an abuser's violence prior to a murder—including providing options for the victim to obtain some measure of safety, self-determination, and economic self-sufficiency—belongs to all of us.

The individuals discussed in the pages of this report were people in our communities. They were victims who needed to talk and to be heard, supported, and offered resources. They were abusers who needed to know that others in the community care about violence and are working hard to hold perpetrators accountable. They were family members, friends, and colleagues who wanted to help, but did not know how. Together, they tell us a great deal about what we must do to build safer communities for all women, children, and men.

Building a community-wide safety net is a formidable task, but it is within our reach. With *If I Had One More Day...*, our fourth biennial report, we ask every person "What will you do today?" The stories of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence remind us that each and every one of us needs to take action, and we need to do so right away.

Throughout this report, you will find specific recommendations for various institutions and disciplines. Each of these recommendations is related directly to findings from eleven in-depth reviews of domestic violence fatalities conducted by the DVFR between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2006. This report builds on the findings and recommendations issued in our previous reports,² and is intended to complement, not replace, them.

1 *Crime in Washington State 2005*, Uniform Crime Reporting Project, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (2006) and Domestic Violence Fatality Review data.

2 *Honoring Their Lives, Learning from Their Deaths* (2000); *"Tell the World What Happened to Me"* (2002); *Every Life Lost Is a Call for Change* (2004). All three reports are available at www.wscadv.org.

While the findings in this report come directly from the observations of Fatality Review panel members, the recommendations do not. Review panels focus on identifying issues and gaps in the response to domestic violence. The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) developed the recommendations in this report by analyzing the issues raised by all of the review panels and convening advisory committees over the last year. WSCADV takes full responsibility for the recommendations contained herein, and the reader should note that the recommendations do not necessarily represent the opinions of individual DVFR panel or advisory committee members.

How to use this report as a tool for implementing change

1. Read the report and remember the stories of those who have lost their lives to domestic violence.
2. Each chapter answers the question *What can you do today?* with a simple action step that anyone can take as a starting point to improving your community's knowledge about and response to domestic violence. Work your way through these action steps and invite others to join you.
3. Share the report with others. Copies of this report and our three previous reports can be ordered at www.wscadv.org. The reports are also available on the website to read and print for free. Email the link to co-workers, advocates, judges, police officers, mental health professionals, chemical dependency counselors, attorneys, healthcare workers, religious institutions, schools, family members, and friends. Print a specific section that you think would be particularly relevant to another individual's work and share it with them.
4. Make a discussion of the report the focus of a staff meeting at your workplace. As an agency, identify five to ten recommendations that are particularly relevant to your community and work toward their implementation. View the recommendations as goals and identify steps for moving forward. Utilize the recommendations for strategic planning.
5. For non-profit agencies: share the report with your board and offer it as a tool for education and strategic planning.
6. Create discussion groups in your community to talk about the report. These groups can be interdisciplinary groups of professionals, or a group of community members interested in making their communities safer and healthier (e.g., religious groups, neighborhood watch). As a group, identify a few recommendations to prioritize and plan action steps toward achieving them.
7. If your community has a domestic violence task force or commission, share the report with the group's facilitator and make it a topic for a future meeting. As a community task force, identify areas where the community is doing well and which areas need improvement. Identify a few key recommendations for your local task force to address. Start a fatality review work group to report back to the task force as a whole on its progress.
8. Use the Fatality Review findings, recommendations, and statistics in community education, with the media, and in grant proposals.

Key data findings

Overview of domestic violence cases July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2006, and all cases since 1997

A total of 113 people died in domestic violence-related fatalities in Washington State between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2006. This number includes eighty-three homicide victims, twenty-six abuser suicides, and four cases in which abusers were killed by law enforcement officers while threatening lethal force against the officers or a victim. Domestic violence abusers or their associates killed almost all of the homicide victims (93%). They include domestic violence victims, their children, friends, and family members.

All domestic violence fatalities

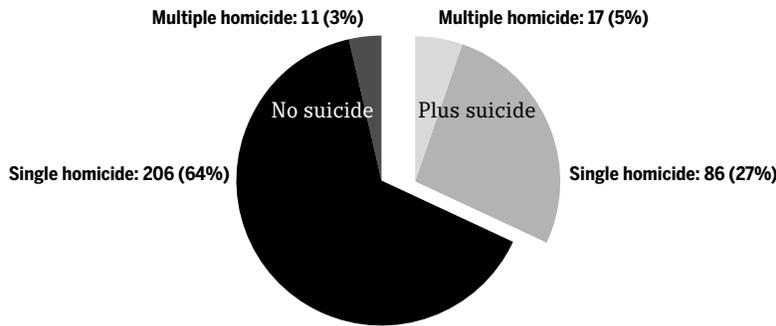
Homicide victim: KILLED BY WHOM	7/1/04–6/30/06	1/1/97–6/30/06
1. Female domestic violence victim: CURRENT/FORMER HUSBAND/BOYFRIEND	48	224
2. Female domestic violence victim: OTHER MALE INTIMATE (E.G., CAREGIVER)	0	5
3. Female domestic violence victim: MALE ABUSER'S ASSOCIATE	0	2
4. Male domestic violence victim: CURRENT/FORMER WIFE/GIRLFRIEND	7	26
5. Male domestic violence victim: FEMALE ABUSER'S ASSOCIATE	2	3
6. Male domestic violence victim: MALE INTIMATE PARTNER	0	1
7. Children: MALE ABUSER	10	32
8. Friend or family of female domestic violence victim: MALE ABUSER	3	35
9. Friend or family of male domestic violence victim: FEMALE ABUSER	0	1
10. New boyfriend of female domestic violence victim: MALE ABUSER	5	24
11. Co-worker of female domestic violence victim: MALE ABUSER	1	2
12. Law enforcement: MALE ABUSER	1	4
13. Male abuser: FEMALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM IN SELF-DEFENSE	2	9
14. Male abuser: FEMALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM IN PROBABLE SELF-DEFENSE	0	8
15. Male abuser: FEMALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM, NOT IN SELF-DEFENSE	1	7
16. Male abuser: FRIEND OR FAMILY OF FEMALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM	2	12
17. Male abuser: LAW ENFORCEMENT	4	13
18. Male abuser: SUICIDE	26	118
19. Female abuser: SUICIDE	0	1
20. Children: FEMALE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM	1	3
Totals		
21. All domestic violence fatalities (rows 1-20)	113	530
22. All homicide victims (rows 1-16 and 20, excludes suicides and abusers killed by law enforcement)	83	398
23. All homicides committed by abusers or their associates (rows 1-12)	77	359

Homicide-suicides

Almost a third (32%) of the 320 abusers who committed homicides since January 1, 1997 committed homicide-suicides. An additional twelve abusers killed themselves after attempting homicide.

Homicides committed by domestic violence abusers: January 1, 1997 to June 30, 2006

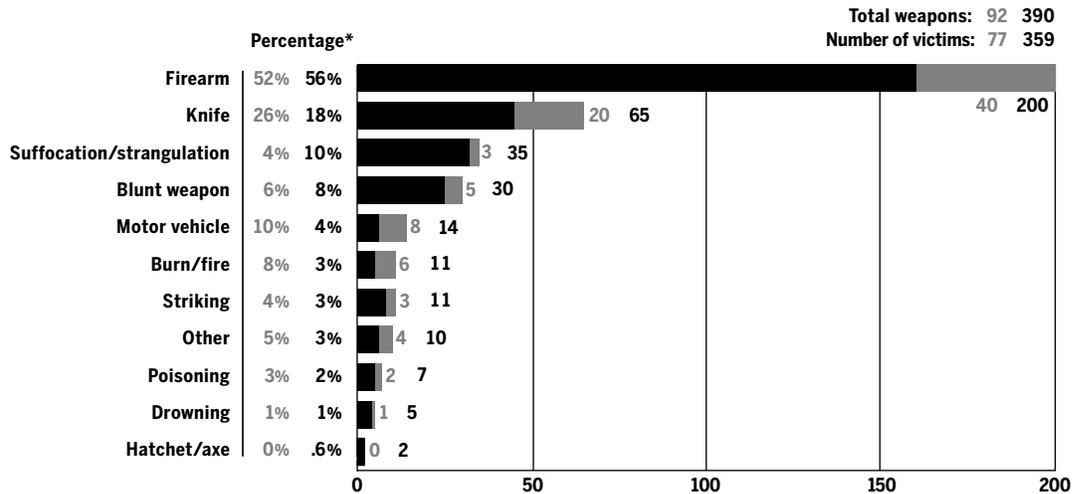
Total cases: 320



Weapons

The majority of domestic violence homicides in Washington State have been committed with firearms. Since 1997, abusers used firearms to kill 56% (n=200) of domestic violence homicide victims. Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2006, abusers used firearms to kill 52% (n=40) of homicide victims.

Weapons used by domestic violence abusers in homicides committed January 1, 1997 to June 30, 2006
 July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2006 rendered in gray



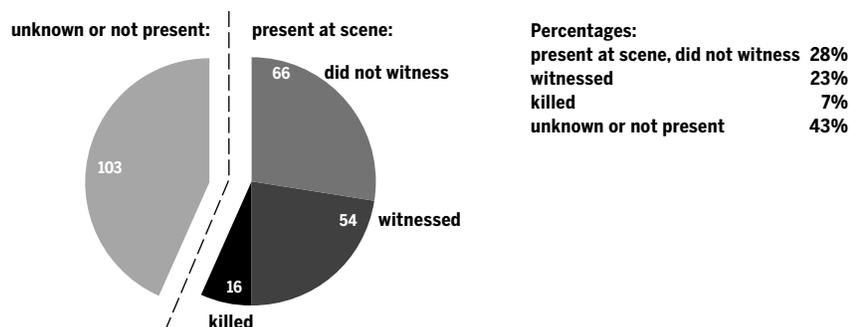
*Percentage total is greater than 100% due to use of multiple weapons in some homicides.

Children

Of the 261 domestic violence victims killed by abusers or their associates since 1997, at least 114 (44%) had children living in the home with them at the time they were murdered. The majority (57%) of the victims' children were present at the time of the homicide.

Location of children at the time of domestic violence victim's murder: January 1, 1997 to June 30, 2006

Total: 239 children of 114 domestic violence victims



Key recommendations

We have identified nine key recommendations out of the many that appear in this report. These recommendations merit priority because they relate to issues identified repeatedly in reviewed domestic violence fatality cases and speak to a range of professional disciplines. However, please keep in mind that all recommendations in this report are relevant to the ability of our communities to support domestic violence victims and hold abusers accountable, and are rooted in the close examination of a domestic violence fatality.

1. Mental health professionals, suicide specialists, and domestic violence programs should collaborate to provide cross-training to each other and to increase their ability to provide the appropriate range of services to domestic violence victims who are suicidal or have other mental health concerns.
2. Middle schools and high schools should identify strategies for providing ongoing information to all students, multiple times throughout their education, about healthy relationships, interpersonal boundary setting, how to recognize abusive tactics, and the support resources available. Schools should involve students in the discussion and development of these strategies in an effort to ensure their relevancy.
3. Domestic violence programs and task forces should engage community informants, such as friends and family of domestic violence victims, to learn how to increase the visibility of the range of services available. Such efforts should address the distinct opportunities and challenges for rural and remote communities and for marginalized populations.
4. Programs providing support to parents and children in our communities, such as parenting classes, prenatal education, Head Start, and other programs aimed at strengthening families and children, should obtain information and establish collaborations with local, community-

based domestic violence programs to include attention to domestic violence in the services they provide.

5. DSHS should routinely provide information about local domestic violence resources to participants across all public benefit programs.
6. Domestic violence programs should collaborate with people who routinely come into contact with homeless and transient individuals, such as food bank workers, railroad police, and community organizers, in order to build community capacity to provide this population with safety planning information and referrals to domestic violence resources.
7. Chemical dependency treatment and batterer's intervention programs should collaborate to offer groups that simultaneously address both issues. These groups should be collaboratively run by a state-certified chemical dependency provider and a state-certified batterer's intervention provider.
8. Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers should routinely examine histories and patterns of behavior in domestic violence cases and make full use of the resources available to do this when assessing for danger and considering how to proceed.
9. Dissolution forms, "Do-It-Yourself Divorce" packets, and classes required by the courts for divorcing parents with children should include information about domestic violence and domestic violence resources.

Recommendations categorized by discipline

The following is a compilation of the Fatality Review recommendations in this report, organized by professional discipline. Each chapter of the report provides context and explains in detail how our findings led us to make these recommendations. The page number following each recommendation indicates where it is found in the text of the report.

1. All disciplines

- 1.1 Domestic violence advocates and everyone working with domestic violence victims should receive training on how to routinely screen for suicidality, how to recognize suicide warning signs, and what to do when these signs are identified. (p.36)
- 1.2 Domestic violence advocates and other professionals working with domestic violence victims should talk to victims about increased safety risks at the time of separation from an abuser and continue to regularly discuss safety planning after a victim has ended an abusive relationship. (p.43)
- 1.3 The goal of safety planning should not be to encourage the victim to end all contact with the abuser; rather, efforts should focus on how to be as safe as possible even when contact with the abuser is ongoing. (p.43)
- 1.4 All professionals working with domestic violence victims should: routinely ask about the abuser's access to firearms; talk with victims about the increased homicide risk posed by the availability of firearms; and connect victims with an advocate to talk about safety planning. (p.44)

- 1.5 Domestic violence advocates and others engaged in problem solving or safety planning with victims should routinely ask victims if calling 911 is a viable option for them. If barriers to calling 911 exist, advocates should work with victims to address these barriers as well as identify alternative safety planning strategies. (p.45)
- 1.6 Professionals interacting with domestic violence victims whose abusers use non-physical methods of control should recognize the need for safety planning even in these cases, and support victims in calling a domestic violence advocate for help with safety planning. (p.46)
- 1.7 People who work with teens in any capacity should receive training regarding teen dating violence, how to talk to teens about relationships, and the resources available to them. (p.48)
- 1.8 All perinatal health care providers and all professionals providing parenting education to teens should partner with a local domestic violence program to receive training on the dynamics of control in abusive relationships, and how to discuss abuse using language that is relevant and accessible to teens. (p.50)
- 1.9 Due to the prevalence of domestic violence among teen parents, information about dating violence, safety planning, and resources available should routinely be provided to all pregnant teens by health care providers, caseworkers, educators, and any other professionals working with pregnant teens. This practice should be adopted rather than screening for abuse and waiting for a teen to self-identify as a domestic violence victim. (p.50)
- 1.10 All programs that provide social service resource information to the community, such as the new Washington Information Network 211 (WIN 211) and crime victim service centers, should receive domestic violence training and be aware of the range of resources available to victims, abusers, and their friends and family. (p.52)
- 1.11 All government agencies, social service programs, and courts that collect identifying information should routinely inform people utilizing their services of how personal information about them is stored, who can access it, and their right to opt out of having this information collected, so that victims of domestic violence and stalking can make informed choices regarding when and what they choose to disclose. (p.54)
- 1.12 Domestic violence programs and other services designed to support victims should acknowledge that victims may be using alcohol, other drugs, and/or violence and address the impact of these issues on their safety, sobriety, and ability to access resources.³ (p.65)
- 1.13 Domestic violence programs, law enforcement, prosecutors, court clerks, and civil attorneys should routinely provide information to domestic violence victims that describes the differences between various types of civil and criminal protective orders.⁴ (p.79)

3 The Alcohol/Drug Help Line Domestic Violence Outreach Project has developed tools for working with substance-abusing domestic violence victims and is available for statewide consultation on a non-emergency basis. Contact dvop@adhl.org or WSCADV at 206-389-2515 for more information. The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault has developed a practical tool kit for use with substance-abusing domestic violence and sexual assault survivors: *Getting Safe and Sober, Real Tools You Can Use* by Patti Bland and Debi Edmund. Contact pbland.andvsa@alaska.com or www.andvsa.org for more information. Also, WSCADV has developed and distributed a *Model Protocol for Working with Battered Women Impacted by Substance Abuse* (2003), which is available at www.wscadv.org.

4 For a hand-out that describes the different types of court orders in a copy-ready format, see www.wscadv.org.

2. Domestic violence programs

- 2.1** Mental health professionals should partner with domestic violence programs to connect domestic violence victims to advocacy and safety planning in addition to mental health services. All domestic violence programs should have relationships with mental health care providers who are well trained in domestic violence and can provide appropriate services to victims. (p.36)
- 2.2** Domestic violence programs should incorporate suicide prevention into community engagement strategies for domestic violence prevention, and should include information about suicide and depression in outreach to victims.⁵ (p.37)
- 2.3** Domestic violence programs should include questions on their crisis line, intake, and safety planning forms to ensure that advocates routinely ask about abusers' suicidal attempts or threats and safety plan accordingly. (p.40)
- 2.4** Domestic violence programs should include discussion of abusers' suicidal threats or attempts and the danger these pose to victims in their community education efforts. (p.41)
- 2.5** Domestic violence programs should include questions on their crisis line, intake, and safety planning forms to ensure that all advocates routinely ask victims about the presence of, and abusers' access to, firearms and discuss safety planning strategies specifically related to firearms. (p.44)
- 2.6** Domestic violence advocates should routinely discuss safety planning with all domestic violence victims, even if the abuser has not used physical abuse as a tactic of control. (p.46)
- 2.7** Funders and domestic violence programs should recognize teen dating violence education, peer advocacy, and prevention efforts as a part of core services. (p.48)
- 2.8** Domestic violence programs should collaborate with those in the community already working with teens, such as camp counselors and youth group leaders, to build community capacity to provide information and support around teen dating violence. Individuals who have developed expertise in this area should be visible in the community and at events where teens gather. (p.48)
- 2.9** Domestic violence coalitions and community-based programs should work together to develop model materials for parents of teens who are being abused and develop best practice models for providing outreach and services to families of teen victims. (p.49)
- 2.10** Domestic violence programs and their funders should include community education, outreach, prevention efforts, public awareness campaigns, and other strategies for building the capacity of communities to respond to domestic violence as a core part of their work. (p.52)
- 2.11** Community education about domestic violence should include tools and strategies for how to: identify abuse, talk to victims or abusers, report abuse, and stay safe. (p.52)
- 2.12** Domestic violence programs and task forces should engage community informants, such as friends and family of domestic violence victims, to learn how to increase the visibility of the range of services available. Such efforts should address the distinct opportunities and challenges for rural and remote communities and for marginalized populations. Funders should support pilot projects to begin this process. (p.52)

⁵ The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has developed a Media Outreach Toolkit to help organizations promote suicide prevention efforts. The toolkit is available at: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/campaign/kit.

- 2.13** Domestic violence programs should include stalking information in brochures and other outreach materials to increase awareness that anyone can call a domestic violence program for support and safety planning regarding stalking. (p.53)
- 2.14** Domestic violence programs should receive ongoing training and consult with national resources, such as the Stalking Resource Center,⁶ to build their capacity to address stalking. (p.53)
- 2.15** Domestic violence programs, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors should collaborate and cross-train one another on issues related to domestic violence stalking, including how to assist victims in documenting the stalking, the use of technology to stalk, an overview of statutes on domestic violence and stalking, and safety planning.⁷ (p.53)
- 2.16** Domestic violence programs should create strong linkages with grassroots organizations serving marginalized communities to build these organizations' capacity to address domestic violence in their community. (p.55)
- 2.17** Domestic violence programs' community education and outreach materials should include information about what to expect when calling 911 to report a domestic violence crime, what information 911 operators collect from callers, and strategies for how to report a crime anonymously. (p.56)
- 2.18** Domestic violence programs should collaborate with those in the community already working with children to build their capacity to provide domestic violence information and support. (p.56)
- 2.19** Domestic violence programs should collaborate with people who routinely come into contact with homeless and transient individuals, such as food bank workers, railroad police, and community organizers, in order to build community capacity to provide this population with safety planning information and referrals to domestic violence resources. (p.61)
- 2.20** Domestic violence programs should develop and implement a plan for engaging their community in work aimed at increasing economic security and the availability of financial education for domestic violence victims.⁸ Funders and domestic violence programs should recognize this work as a part of core services. (p.62)
- 2.21** Domestic violence programs' outreach materials, community education, and safety plans should inform people of the increased lethality risks when the abuser is using alcohol or other drugs, and should include referrals to community resources available for abusers, victims, and their friends and family. (p.63)
- 2.22** Domestic violence programs should provide services to substance-using domestic violence victims by developing policies and procedures that maintain safety for all program participants while addressing the needs of substance-using victims. (p.65)

⁶ The Stalking Resource Center is a part of the National Center for Victims of Crime. For more information, see www.ncvc.org/src/Main.aspx.

⁷ Good models of such collaborations exist. See, for example, *Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking*, a video produced by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Available for purchase at www.ncvc.org.

⁸ See *In Our Shoes: The Next Steps – A Domestic Violence Advocate's Guide to Working for Economic Justice in Your Community*, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2005), www.wscadv.org. This step-by-step workbook can be used by advocates to develop and sustain a community-based effort to advance economic security, especially for those affected by domestic violence.

- 2.23** Domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should collaborate to provide cross-training to providers and services to individuals struggling with both domestic violence and chemical dependency. Because so many individuals face both challenges and because so many barriers exist to disclosing either domestic violence or substance abuse, domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should make information about one another's programs consistently available to everyone using their services. (p.65)
- 2.24** Domestic violence and chemical dependency providers need to be aware of the increased safety risk when a domestic violence victim is working toward sobriety, thereby reducing the abuser's control. Domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should coordinate safety planning and relapse prevention planning accordingly. (p.65)
- 2.25** Domestic violence programs should have clear protocols to determine eligibility for victim services, rather than relying on the legal system's identification of the victim and abuser, or other methods. Programs should receive training in the use of domestic violence assessment tools designed to identify the victim of an ongoing pattern of power and control in a relationship, and programs should have policies that direct advocates on how and when to use such tools.⁹ (p.74)
- 2.26** Domestic violence programs should conduct outreach to the jails in their community to provide information and resources to domestic violence victims in custody. (p.74)

3. Mental health, chemical dependency, and batterer's intervention professionals

- 3.1** Mental health professionals should routinely screen for domestic violence when women present as depressed and/or suicidal.¹⁰ (p.36)
- 3.2** Mental health professionals should partner with domestic violence programs to connect domestic violence victims to advocacy and safety planning in addition to mental health services. All domestic violence programs should have relationships with mental health care providers who are well trained in domestic violence and can provide appropriate services to victims. (p.36)
- 3.3** Mental health professionals, suicide specialists, and domestic violence programs should collaborate to provide cross-training to each other and to increase their ability to provide the appropriate range of services to domestic violence victims who are suicidal or have other mental health concerns. (p.36)
- 3.4** Suicide specialists should work collaboratively with domestic violence experts to develop suicide prevention strategies and public awareness campaigns specifically directed at victims of domestic violence. (p.37)
- 3.5** Suicide prevention efforts should include prevention strategies and outreach campaigns specifically directed at men who abuse their partners. (p.39)

⁹ The Northwest Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse has developed an assessment tool that is used as a model nationwide. The NW Network provides training on this tool for other domestic violence service providers. For more information, contact The NW Network at www.nwnetwork.org or WSCADV at 206-389-2515.

¹⁰ For examples of screening tools, see the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, "Guidelines for Mental Health Professionals," available at www.opdv.state.ny.us/health_humsvc/mental_health/guidelines.html, and the Washington State Department of Health, "Domestic Violence and Pregnancy: Guidelines for Screening and Referral" (2004), available at www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/mch/documents/dv_for_web.pdf.

- 3.6** Mental health providers and treatment developers should collaborate with domestic violence batterer's intervention and victim service experts to develop a best practice model for simultaneously addressing suicidality and domestic violence perpetration. (p.39)
- 3.7** Mental health professionals should routinely screen depressed and suicidal clients for domestic violence. Therapists should recognize that suicidal abusers may present an acute danger to their partners, ex-partners, and others, even if they have not made homicidal threats. (p.40)
- 3.8** In collaboration with domestic violence experts, mental health professionals should establish clear guidelines regarding when the combination of domestic violence and suicidal threats signals clear danger to others and triggers providers' duty to warn potential victims. (p.40)
- 3.9** Therapists and other mental health professionals should be aware of the prevalence of manipulative suicide threats as a tactic of domestic violence. When mental health care providers identify that a client has used suicidal threats or attempts as a tactic of establishing a pattern of power and control over an intimate partner, they should refer the client to a certified batterer's intervention program. (p.40)
- 3.10** Suicide outreach and prevention programs should target friends, families, and partners of suicidal abusers, and provide specific strategies that address domestic violence and suicide. (p.41)
- 3.11** Experts in chemical dependency, suicide, and domestic violence should work together to coordinate prevention and intervention efforts. (p.41)
- 3.12** Domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should collaborate to provide cross-training to providers and services to individuals struggling with both domestic violence and chemical dependency. Because so many individuals face both challenges and because so many barriers exist to disclosing either domestic violence or substance abuse, domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should make information about one another's programs consistently available to everyone using their services. (p.65)
- 3.13** Domestic violence and chemical dependency providers need to be aware of the increased safety risk when a domestic violence victim is working toward sobriety, thereby reducing the abuser's control. Domestic violence and chemical dependency programs should coordinate safety planning and relapse prevention planning accordingly. (p.65)
- 3.14** Chemical dependency programs should screen and check criminal histories for domestic violence and refer abusers to state-certified batterer's intervention programs when it is identified. (p.66)
- 3.15** Chemical dependency treatment and batterer's intervention programs should collaborate to offer groups that simultaneously address both issues. These groups should be collaboratively run by a state-certified chemical dependency provider and a state-certified batterer's intervention provider.¹¹ (p.66)

¹¹ Good models exist for this type of group. Contact WSCADV at 206-389-2515 to be connected with providers doing this work.

4. Law enforcement

- 4.1 Law enforcement should immediately contact mental health professionals when a domestic violence abuser threatens suicide. Officers should provide the victim with information regarding the increased risk of homicide when an abuser is suicidal, and offer referrals to a domestic violence program for intensive safety planning. (p.39)
- 4.2 Every law enforcement agency should establish policies and procedures for gun removal and storage for convicted domestic violence offenders and domestic violence abusers subject to criminal or civil protective orders.¹² (p.44)
- 4.3 Police officers should distribute domestic violence information to friends, family, neighbors, and witnesses at the scene of all domestic violence crimes. (p.52)
- 4.4 Domestic violence programs, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors should collaborate and cross-train one another on issues related to domestic violence stalking, including how to assist victims in documenting the stalking, the use of technology to stalk, an overview of statutes on domestic violence and stalking, and safety planning.¹³ (p.53)
- 4.5 Law enforcement agencies should not coordinate efforts with the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in patrol, investigation, and follow-up work on non-federal, non-terrorism-related crimes. Law enforcement agencies should work with immigrant communities to publicize and clarify their policies regarding when and if they cooperate with ICE and what non-citizens can expect when they call 911. (p.55)
- 4.6 Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers should routinely examine histories and patterns of behavior in domestic violence cases and make full use of the resources available to do this when assessing for danger and considering how to proceed.¹⁴ (p.71)
- 4.7 Law enforcement officers should routinely ask victims and other witnesses reporting protective order violations about previous reported and unreported violations in order to help assess danger and to identify patterns. When the respondent of an order is repeatedly contacting the petitioner, officers should investigate and document the violations as a stalking crime. (p.71)
- 4.8 State-level agencies, such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, should work collaboratively with state-level domestic violence advocacy experts to develop model protocols for the criminal legal response to stalking. (p.71)
- 4.9 In order to increase access to interpretation and translation services at the local level, law enforcement should partner with domestic violence and other social service programs to share and advocate for additional resources. (p.73)

12 The King County Firearms Forfeiture Program has created a model protocol for the removal and storage of firearms in domestic violence criminal investigations and domestic violence Protection Order cases. This program provides statewide consultation; contact Mark Hanna at mark.hanna@metrokc.gov or WSCADV at 206-389-2515 for additional information.

13 Good models of such collaborations exist. See, for example, *Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking*, a video produced by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Available for purchase at www.ncvc.org.

14 Judges should reference *Domestic Violence Cases in Municipal Court: Judicial Decision Making* (2004) for further guidance. To obtain copies of this bench card, contact the Gender and Justice Commission, Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts at 360-705-5290.

- 4.10** Local law enforcement agencies should consider utilizing federal STOP grant funds to support language access resources for investigating domestic violence crimes. (p.73)
- 4.11** Law enforcement should never use children as interpreters; telephonic interpretation services should be used when qualified interpreters are not available at the scene. (p.73)
- 4.12** Courts and law enforcement agencies should develop language access plans consistent with the guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Justice.¹⁵ (p.73)
- 4.13** Law enforcement agencies should review their policies and practices for monitoring the accuracy and completeness of domestic violence incident reports, including steps taken to identify the primary aggressor at the scene. Law enforcement agencies should consult with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs when developing, implementing, or modifying policies and practices regarding monitoring the documentation of domestic violence investigations. (p.74)

5. Prosecuting attorneys, judges, criminal courts, and corrections

- 5.1** Those in the criminal legal system who have ongoing contact with domestic violence abusers, such as probation officers and defense attorneys, should screen offenders for suicidal behavior or intention, and refer suicidal abusers to appropriate mental health and batterer's intervention programs. (p.39)
- 5.2** Police, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers should consistently make every effort to identify and remove abusers' guns possessed in violation of the law at each step of the criminal or civil legal process. (p.44)
- 5.3** Domestic violence programs, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors should collaborate and cross-train one another on issues related to domestic violence stalking, including how to assist victims in documenting the stalking, the use of technology to stalk, an overview of statutes on domestic violence and stalking, and safety planning.¹⁶ (p.53)
- 5.4** Prosecutors should routinely request that a criminal No Contact Order be issued in all domestic violence cases and implement a practice of routinely checking for the existence of other protective orders and consulting with victims about their desire for such an order. (p.68)
- 5.5** Prosecutors and advocates should routinely talk to victims about a civil Protection Order as an option in addition to a No Contact Order in case the criminal case is dismissed or the No Contact Order is rescinded for some other reason. (p.68)
- 5.6** Criminal courts and prosecutors should collaborate with domestic violence advocates and family law attorneys to develop model language to use in No Contact Orders that involve defendants who have visitation rights to any children in common with the victim to avoid conflicting orders and to ensure that the safety of the victim and children is addressed in the order. (p.68)
- 5.7** If an abuser or defense attorney requests the termination of a criminal No Contact Order, the prosecutor handling the case should routinely contact the victim to inform her of the process and her options, which include having the prosecutor oppose lifting the order. (p.68)

¹⁵ See www.lep.gov for these policy guidelines.

¹⁶ Good models of such collaborations exist. See, for example, *Links in the Chain: Two Communities Respond to Stalking*, a video produced by the National Center for Victims of Crime and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice. Available for purchase at www.ncvc.org.

- 5.8** The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys should create and disseminate model guidelines for prosecutors regarding the admissibility of 911 tapes and victim statements in the prosecution of domestic violence cases even when the victim is unavailable to appear in court. (p.69)
- 5.9** Jails and prisons should develop policies and mechanisms for preventing inmates from calling victims or witnesses listed in police reports and/or civil and criminal protective orders. (p.69)
- 5.10** Judges should hold frequent post-sentencing reviews, and impose timely and meaningful consequences for non-compliant defendants. (p.71)
- 5.11** Probation departments should place a high priority on monitoring domestic violence cases and all jurisdictions should focus additional resources on the supervision of these offenders.¹⁷ (p.71)
- 5.12** Jail space should be prioritized for violent offenders with a high likelihood of recidivism, including domestic violence offenders. (p.71)
- 5.13** Judges should not base bail determinations and release decisions for violent offenders on the availability of jail space. (p.71)
- 5.14** Law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers should routinely examine histories and patterns of behavior in domestic violence cases and make full use of the resources available to do this when assessing for danger and considering how to proceed.¹⁸ (p.71)
- 5.15** Prosecutors' offices should consider innovative strategies for effectively prosecuting repeat offenders, such as assigning one prosecutor to handle all charges for a particular defendant and "packaging" multiple charges.¹⁹ (p.71)
- 5.16** Prior to accepting plea agreements in domestic violence cases, courts should require the prosecutor's office to provide the defendant's criminal history. (p.71)
- 5.17** State-level agencies, such as the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs and the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, should work collaboratively with state-level domestic violence advocacy experts to develop model protocols for the criminal legal response to stalking. (p.71)
- 5.18** The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys should create and disseminate model guidelines for prosecutors on how to bring prior acts of domestic violence before the court when charging, making bail recommendations, prosecuting, and sentencing domestic violence-related crimes. (p.72)
- 5.19** The Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys should make a recommendation to the Washington State Supreme Court regarding changing the evidentiary rules to increase the admissibility of prior domestic violence acts in court, as they are for sex offenses and Driving Under the Influence offenses. (p.72)

17 For model guidelines that all jurisdictions can follow in post-arrest supervision of domestic violence offenders, see *Post-Arrest Model Response for the Supervision of Domestic Violence Offenders*, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (1999). To request a copy, call WSCADV at 206-389-2515.

18 Judges should reference *Domestic Violence Cases in Municipal Court: Judicial Decision Making* (2004) for further guidance. To obtain copies of this bench card, contact the Gender and Justice Commission, Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts at 360-705-5290.

19 The Thurston County Prosecutor's Office has recently implemented such a strategy. Contact Christy Peters at petersc@co.thurston.wa.us or WSCADV at 206-389-2515 for additional information.

- 5.20** Courts and law enforcement agencies should develop language access plans consistent with the guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Justice.²⁰ (p.73)
- 5.21** Judges should routinely order domestic violence offenders to attend a state-certified batterer's intervention program. (p.76)
- 5.22** Batterer's evaluations should never be court ordered in lieu of batterer's intervention, or in any way be a part of the criminal legal response to domestic violence. (p.76)
- 5.23** Judges should increase their awareness of the state standards for batterer's intervention programs and should not accept an offender's enrollment in a program that fails to meet these standards. (p.76)
- 5.24** Judges and probation departments should collaborate to develop a mechanism to extend probation or use judicial hearings if an abuser has not completed court-ordered batterer's intervention by the end of their probation period. (p.76)
- 5.25** Jails and prisons should designate resources to develop programs for inmates aimed at prevention or reduction of domestic violence incidents, such as certified batterer's intervention.²¹ (p.76)
- 5.26** Courts should have domestic violence resource information available throughout the courthouse (e.g., in bathrooms, waiting areas, clerks' offices, Protection Order offices). (p.80)

6. Civil attorneys, judges, and civil courts

- 6.1** Police, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers should consistently make every effort to identify and remove abusers' guns possessed in violation of the law at each step of the criminal or civil legal process. (p.44)
- 6.2** All courts issuing civil Protection Orders should have domestic violence advocacy services available on-site and ensure that such advocates have extensive training on how to assist victims with safety planning. If resources are limited, courts should minimally require that clerks routinely provide all petitioners with referral information to the local domestic violence program for assistance with safety planning, as mandated by RCW 26.50.035. (p.78)
- 6.3** Judges and commissioners should utilize their access to court histories to obtain as much background information as possible about other proceedings involving civil Protection Order respondents and petitioners.²² (p.79)
- 6.4** Courts should have domestic violence resource information available throughout the courthouse (e.g., in bathrooms, waiting areas, clerks' offices, Protection Order offices). (p.80)
- 6.5** Dissolution forms, "Do-It-Yourself Divorce" packets, and classes required by the courts for divorcing parents with children should include information about domestic violence and domestic violence resources. (p.80)
- 6.6** Due to the prevalence of domestic violence, law schools should incorporate domestic violence education in core courses for all attorneys, regardless of their area of specialty.²³ (p.80)

²⁰ See www.lep.gov for these policy guidelines.

²¹ Good models exist for such programs. For example, see Manalive Violence Prevention Programs at www.manaliveinternational.org.

²² The Kitsap County District Court, in partnership with the YWCA of Kitsap County, has developed and implemented a model court project, A New Beginning: Protecting Victims by Preventing Conflicting Domestic Violence Orders (Protecting Victims Project), to resolve problems that result when multiple orders exist for petitioners and respondents. As a part of this work, they scan every court order in the county (civil, criminal, and tribal court) to ensure continuous access to information on all orders. To learn more about the Protecting Victims Project or to discuss the availability of consultation services, contact Maury Baker at 360-337-4959 or WSCADV at 206-389-2515.

²³ For a report on integration of domestic violence into law school curricula, as well as sample course materials for use by legal educators, see *Teach Your Students Well: Incorporating Domestic Violence Into Law School Curricula—A Law School Report*, American Bar Association Commission on Domestic Violence (2003).

- 6.7** Civil attorneys should routinely tell their clients going through the dissolution process about available domestic violence advocacy services, where to receive assistance planning for their safety, and Protection Orders. (p.80)
- 6.8** All attorneys practicing family law should receive training on how to identify when domestic violence is an issue and what factors indicate an increased risk for serious injury or lethality. (p.80)
- 6.9** Civil Protection Orders should specify visitation arrangements which address safety for domestic violence victims and their children. (p.82)
- 6.10** All professionals working in the civil legal system, including judges, attorneys, court clerks, court facilitators, family court evaluators, guardians ad litem (GALs), and court-appointed special advocates (CASAs), should receive initial training and continuing education on domestic violence. (p.82)
- 6.11** The Washington State Bar Association should collaborate with agencies with expertise in domestic violence and family law to create and disseminate the following practice guides: how to raise the issue of domestic violence in custody cases; making the connections between domestic violence and harm to children, including a literature review to help attorneys bring the research in this area to judges' attention; and how to construct a parenting plan which addresses safety for victims and their children. (p.82)
- 6.12** To determine parenting plan arrangements, courts should utilize neutral, well-trained evaluators who can: assess for the existence of domestic violence; obtain all available prior civil and criminal legal records which may pertain to the existence of domestic violence; and assess for the safety needs of victims and their children. (p.82)

7. Legislature, state and local government agencies, and schools

- 7.1** The Washington State Legislature should require all middle schools and high schools to develop and implement a policy for responding to domestic and dating violence when it is identified as an issue for students, faculty, or staff. Schools should partner with local, community-based domestic violence programs when developing these policies and the Legislature should provide schools and domestic violence programs with funding to support this work. (p.47)
- 7.2** The state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) should collaborate with state-level domestic violence advocacy experts to review how its healthy relationships curriculum addresses domestic and dating violence, and develop a plan for promoting and training on the use of this curriculum.²⁴ (p.48)
- 7.3** Middle schools and high schools should identify strategies for providing ongoing information to all students, multiple times throughout their education, about healthy relationships, interpersonal boundary setting, how to recognize abusive tactics, and the support resources available. Schools should involve students in the discussion and development of these strategies in an effort to ensure their relevancy. (p.48)
- 7.4** Teen dating violence prevention education should include development of peer advocacy and a partnership with a local domestic violence agency. (p.48)
- 7.5** School resource officers, school counselors, and school nurses should all have written information available on healthy relationships, tactics of abuse, and support resources in language that is clear, relevant, and accessible to young people. (p.48)

²⁴ In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed ESHB 1252, which mandated the OSPI to develop this curriculum (called "family preservation education program model curriculum" in the legislation) for school district boards around the state to adopt on a voluntary basis, and to include instruction on domestic and dating violence in the curriculum.

- 7.6** Funders and domestic violence programs should recognize teen dating violence education, peer advocacy, and prevention efforts as a part of core services. (p.48)
- 7.7** The Department of Social and Health Services Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration and Children's Administration, in collaboration with juvenile courts, youth advocates, and domestic violence experts, should develop policies and protocols for professionals working in the juvenile justice system to address domestic and dating violence. (p.50)
- 7.8** Domestic violence programs and their funders should include community education, outreach, prevention efforts, public awareness campaigns, and other strategies for building the capacity of communities to respond to domestic violence as a core part of their work. (p.52)
- 7.9** State and local governments should make funding available to marginalized communities—such as communities of color, immigrant and refugee, Native, disabled, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities—to develop targeted and culturally specific community education campaigns and community organizing projects regarding domestic violence. Funding should be directed to organizations with established credibility and trust within the communities that will be the focus of the education and organizing efforts. (p.55)
- 7.10** The Washington State Legislature and Governor's Office should discourage the adoption of inter-local agreements between local law enforcement agencies and ICE that allow for local enforcement of federal immigration law. (p.55)
- 7.11** Crime prevention public education campaigns should address people's concerns regarding who will have access to their identity when they call 911 to report a crime. (p.56)
- 7.12** State government and local communities should commit time and resources to collaborate with domestic violence advocacy programs to develop and implement early interventions for children exposed to domestic violence and support for non-abusive parents. (p.56)
- 7.13** All programs that are a part of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Children's Administration, including the Foster Care program and Child Protective Services, should collaborate with locally based domestic violence advocates for training and to develop policies and protocols for identifying and responding to domestic violence.²⁵ (p.57)
- 7.14** DSHS should ensure that all WorkFirst participants are screened for domestic violence in accordance with existing policy, using the specific screening questions in e-JAS. (p.59)
- 7.15** DSHS should ensure that all identified domestic violence victims who participate in WorkFirst are provided with information and referrals to local domestic violence resources. (p.59)
- 7.16** DSHS should ensure that WorkFirst staff waive program requirements as needed and develop safe and appropriate work and individual responsibility plans for domestic violence victims participating in the WorkFirst program. (p.59)
- 7.17** As DSHS communicates with CSOs about the new federal TANF regulations issued in June 2006, they should remind workers that domestic violence victims can be counted outside of federal participation rate requirements and recognize this as an incentive for the accurate use of the Family Violence Option. (p.59)
- 7.18** DSHS should expand its current partnerships with locally contracted domestic violence programs to place experienced domestic violence advocates in all CSOs to provide

²⁵ See the 2004 DVFR report, *Every Life Lost Is a Call for Change*, p. 59, for a detailed discussion of findings and recommendations for the DSHS Children's Administration.

information, advocacy, and support to all victims accessing public benefits.²⁶ Clients should be able to access these advocates directly, regardless of how they answer screening questions about domestic violence. (p.60)

- 7.19** DSHS should routinely provide information about local domestic violence resources to participants across all public benefit programs. (p.60)
- 7.20** Due to the prevalence of domestic violence and the many barriers that exist to disclosing abuse, DSHS should require all of its offices and programs to have domestic violence information (e.g., safety planning pocket guides, brochures from the local domestic violence agency) consistently available in areas where individuals can help themselves to the information, such as in restrooms, in the front office waiting area, and on the desks of all case managers and social workers. (p.60)
- 7.21** DSHS should ensure adequate support services are routinely available to clients who have mental health issues. (p.60)
- 7.22** Domestic violence programs should develop and implement a plan for engaging their community in work aimed at increasing economic security and the availability of financial education for domestic violence victims.²⁷ Funders and domestic violence programs should recognize this work as a part of core services. (p.62)
- 7.23** The Washington State Legislature should amend RCW 10.99 to direct judges to examine a complete criminal history before releasing a defendant in a domestic violence case on personal recognizance or when determining the level of bail. (p.72)
- 7.24** The Washington State Legislature should amend the state sentencing guidelines to provide for more serious sentences for recidivist domestic violence offenders, as has been done for repeat offenders in Driving Under the Influence convictions. (p.72)
- 7.25** The state should provide more resources to DSHS for the oversight of certified batterer's intervention programs in order to monitor their compliance with the standards set forth in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), including increased authority to decertify noncompliant programs and funding to reconvene an advisory group. (p.76)
- 7.26** The Washington State Legislature should amend RCW 26.09.191 to provide more specificity around the types of restrictions on residential time with children that can be ordered for domestic violence abusers (e.g., supervised visitation or exchange, completion of batterer's intervention program).²⁸ (p.82)
- 7.27** The Washington State Legislature should increase funding for safe, affordable, and language-accessible supervised visitation and exchange resources for family law cases involving domestic violence. Supervisors should receive specialized training on the dynamics of domestic violence, how to recognize the manipulative tactics an abuser might use during visitation, the potential for an abuser to use visitation to stalk and control their partner, and the risk to children when one parent has a history of perpetrating domestic violence. (p.82)

²⁶ Currently, 70% of CSOs have on-site domestic violence advocates on contract from local domestic violence programs.

²⁷ See *In Our Shoes: The Next Steps – A Domestic Violence Advocate's Guide to Working for Economic Justice in Your Community*, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2005), www.wscadv.org. This step-by-step workbook can be used by advocates to develop and sustain a community-based effort to advance economic security, especially for those affected by domestic violence.

²⁸ Examples of such language can be found in the *Model Code on Domestic and Family Violence*, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (1994). For copies of this publication, see www.ncjfcj.org.

8. Community organizations

- 8.1 Community groups and volunteer organizations (e.g., neighborhood associations, block watch, parenting groups, religious congregations) should contact their local domestic violence program to learn about domestic violence. (p.52)
- 8.2 Crime prevention public education campaigns should address people's concerns regarding who will have access to their identity when they call 911 to report a crime. (p.56)
- 8.3 Programs providing support to parents and children, such as parenting classes, prenatal education, Head Start, and other programs aimed at strengthening families and children, should obtain information about and establish collaborations with local, community-based domestic violence programs to include attention to domestic violence in the services they provide.²⁹ (p.56)
- 8.4 State government and local communities should commit time and resources to collaborate with domestic violence advocacy programs to develop and implement early interventions for children exposed to domestic violence and support for non-abusive parents. (p.56)
- 8.5 Housing organizations, from emergency shelters to long-term transitional housing programs and housing authorities, should evaluate policies that deny housing to people who use psychiatric medications to determine whether victims of domestic violence and their children are being adversely harmed by such policies, and coordinate with domestic violence programs to provide supportive services. (p.60)

9. Employers

- 9.1 Employers should develop, implement, and train staff on policies that specifically address how they will support employees who are being abused and/or stalked, in order to assist them in safely maintaining their employment.³⁰ (p.62)
- 9.2 Employers should contact their local domestic violence program to learn about resources available and routinely share this information with their employees by a variety of methods (e.g., attach a list of resources to paychecks, have information available in restrooms, invite an advocate from a local domestic violence program to give a presentation at a staff meeting). (p.62)

10. Media

- 10.1 All media coverage of domestic violence homicides or other domestic violence-related stories should inform the audience that anyone (e.g., victims, friends, family, co-workers) can call a domestic violence program for free and confidential information, support, and assistance with safety planning.³¹ (p.52)

²⁹ Head Start has created a model curriculum to address domestic violence called Safe Families–Safe Homes. See www.glenwoodresearch.com/domestic_violence.php for more information and a curriculum sample.

³⁰ For employer resources on strategies to address domestic violence and examples of best practice at a variety of companies, see the Family Violence Prevention Fund's website at www.endabuse.org/workplace or the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence at www.caepv.org.

³¹ WSCADV has developed and distributed *Covering Domestic Violence: A Guide for Journalists and Other Media Professionals* (2002, revised 2006), which includes local and national statistics, tips for accurately covering domestic violence crimes, and resource information reporters can incorporate into their coverage. This guide is available at www.wscadv.org.

What can you do today?

Each chapter of this report ends with a simple step every one of us can take today to begin to impact change in our community. The following is a list of these suggested steps, with the page number indicating where they can be found in the text of the report.

- Become a trained suicide prevention gatekeeper. Eastern Washington University offers a one-hour online QPR Suicide Triage Training. Find more information and enroll at the QPR Institute website: www.qprinstitute.com. (p.41)
- Go to the Family Violence Prevention Fund's website to learn more about safety planning: www.endabuse.org/resources/gethelp. (p.46)
- Contact someone you know who works with or interacts with teens, and ask them to call their local domestic violence program. They can talk with an advocate about teen dating violence to learn about the tactics of abuse, safety planning, and the information and resources that are available to teens. (p.50)
- Identify one group of people you are involved with in your community (e.g., your workplace, a parenting group, a book club) and inform the group of the prevalence of domestic violence and the critical role friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors play in responding to abuse. Provide contact information for your local domestic violence program. Let them know that anyone can call this number for free, confidential information and support if they or someone they know is experiencing stalking or emotional, verbal, physical, and/or sexual abuse. (p.57)
- Every county in the state was required to develop a ten-year plan by June 2006 to address homelessness as a part of the Washington State Homelessness Act. The plans are coordinated by the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and can be found on their website at www.cted.wa.gov under Housing/Homeless/Homelessness Act. Call the local contact person for your county and inquire about how the county's plan is addressing the needs of homeless domestic violence victims. (p.62)
- Contact one domestic violence, one chemical dependency, and one mental health program in your community to learn about their services and collect an agency brochure. Then share with each program the information and brochure you collected from the other two. (p.66)
- Contact your local law enforcement agency to learn about their policies and practices regarding how officers utilize interpreters when responding to domestic violence incidents. If they lack a clear policy, refer them to www.lep.gov and ask them to develop a language access plan. (p.76)
- Go to a court in your area and see if there is domestic violence resource information in multiple languages available at the front window, in the Protection Order office, by the court clerk, or in some other accessible area. If there is, thank the court for having that information available. If there is not, contact your local domestic violence program and ask them to contact the court and routinely provide them with resource information, or write a letter to the presiding judge requesting that the court make this information available. (p.82)