

Maintaining an Active Task Force

- Look at your mission statement; does the focus of your group reflect it?
- Are you making services to victims more accessible in your community?
- Is your community holding the perpetrator accountable?
- Are the key stakeholders represented?
- Do you have a survivor on your council?
- Do you know how each person/agency represented at the table deal(s) with DV?
- Are you talking about the “hard stuff”?

“HARD STUFF”

- Dual arrests
- Protective orders
- DV laws
- Teen dating violence
- Effects of DV on children
- Homicide
- Stalking
- Family violence intervention programs
- Shelter issues

Who are the people victims encounter in their journey and are they at the table with you?

- 911 dispatcher
- Police officer on the scene
- Nurse and Doctor in the ER
- Advocate in the shelter
- DFCS
- TANF assessor
- Her pastor or religious leader
- Her employer
- Her family
- Magistrate or County Clerk
- District Attorney
- Solicitor-General
- Judge
- School Counselors
- Community/Social Service Agencies
- Legal Services
- And many more!

How to get key community leaders to the table and how to keep them there.

- Speaker's Panel
- Solo Guest Speaker
- Expertise is needed on a particular issue
- Ask, "How can we help you?"

There are two questions that everyone on the council must answer...

1. Am I safe?
2. Do I want to be here?

*If the answer to these questions is **NO**, chances are they won't come back.

Specific Suggestions:

- Let potential members know you are changing the focus of the group to reflect your mission statement.
- Always have an agenda and stick to it.
- Have a good neutral facilitator to keep the group on task. Consider getting someone from a local college for this purpose. Facilitators should be cheerleaders, not considered to be the expert, and should reflect back and summarize what people say at the meeting.
- Don't be afraid to tackle the hard topics. Women will continue to be abused unless we start to look at how we deal with victims and perpetrators.
- Move your council from an individual to a group mentality.
- Hearing from everyone in the group is important. Spend sometime getting to know each other and why you are involved in the council. Talking about the "hard stuff" is easier when there is trust within the group.
- Do most of your work in committees. Send that bake sale to the planning committee to hammer out the details and present to the full council for approval.
- **NEVER GIVE UP!**