

Organizing a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence Using the Duluth Model

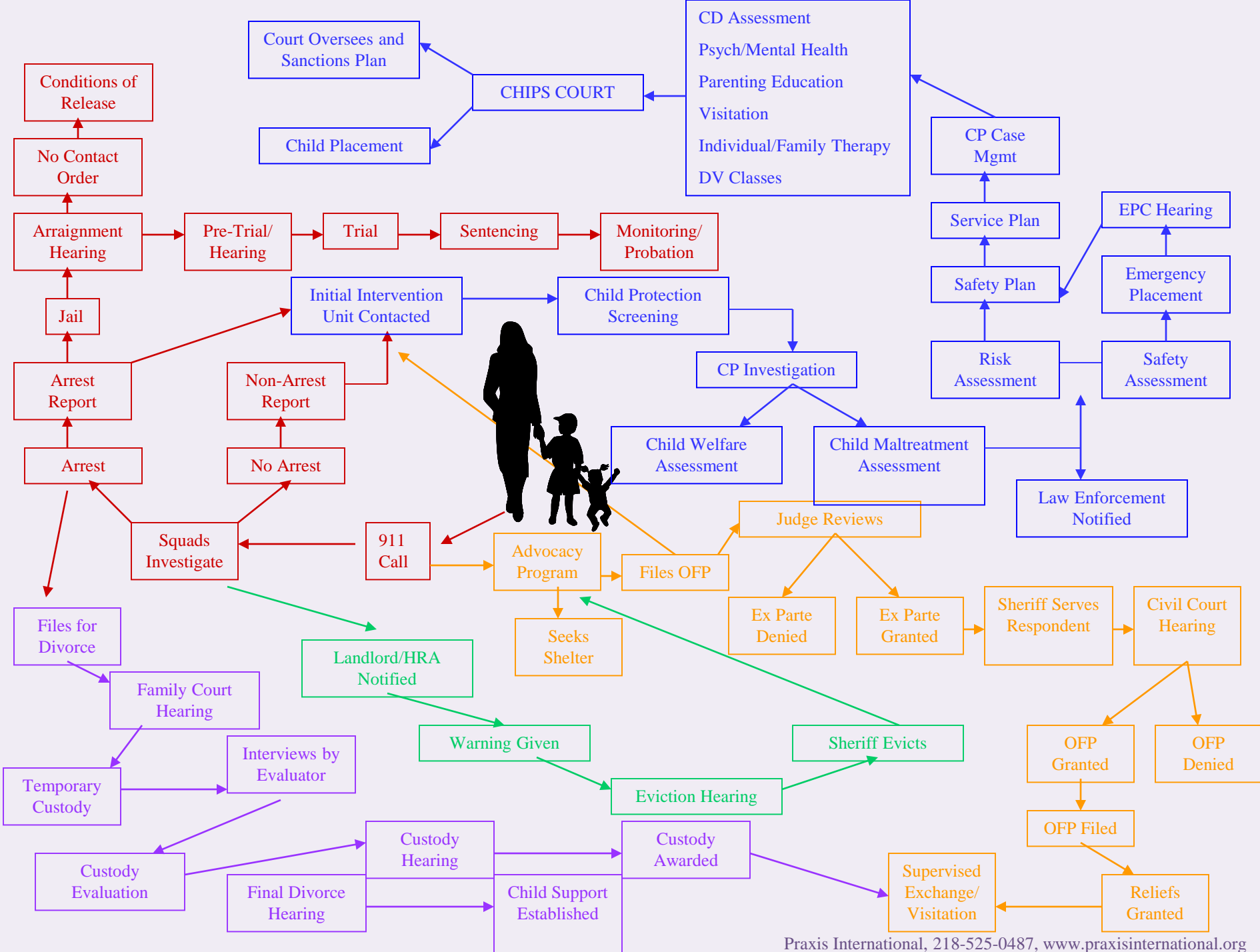
Scott Miller

**Domestic Abuse Intervention
Programs (DAIP)**



The Duluth Model

The Duluth Model is an organizing method that prioritizes victim safety and offender accountability within a social change framework. The model guides organizers to build interventions within systems that are aligned with the lived experience of victims.



Concepts and Theories

Includes theories, assumptions and philosophical frameworks

Conceptual practices are ingrained in language, assessment tools, and policies

Concepts and theories are not owned by a specific individual—they are embedded in institutional practices

The violence is caused by....

Pathology and Disorder Theories

Relationship Theories

Anger—Cycle of Violence Theory

Dominance (Power & Control)

Individual Pathology

The batterer has some kind of illness or diagnosis

Batterer is the problem – not society

Response: Individual psychiatric care, treatment for addiction, or therapy

Relationship Dysfunction

“It takes two to tango”

The couples are playing off each other

Either could stop the violence

Both parties are responsible

Response: Couples counseling or
relationship counseling separately

The Cycle of Violence

Theory developed by Lenore Walker

- Tension-building phase
- Explosion of violence
- Honeymoon phase or respite

Men socialized to use violence

Increases in frequency and severity

Popular theory, not supported by research

Response: Anger management

Dominance

System of power and control tactics

- Physical and sexual violence
- Other abusive behaviors such as emotional abuse

Reinforced by the culture

Need to balance the power differential by using the power of the state

Response: Programs that focus on changing beliefs with tight sanctions by the criminal justice system

Relevant Bits of Backstory

The Power and Control Wheel was developed in 1984 in partnership with women who had been battered



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROJECT

202 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218-722-2781
www.duluth-model.org

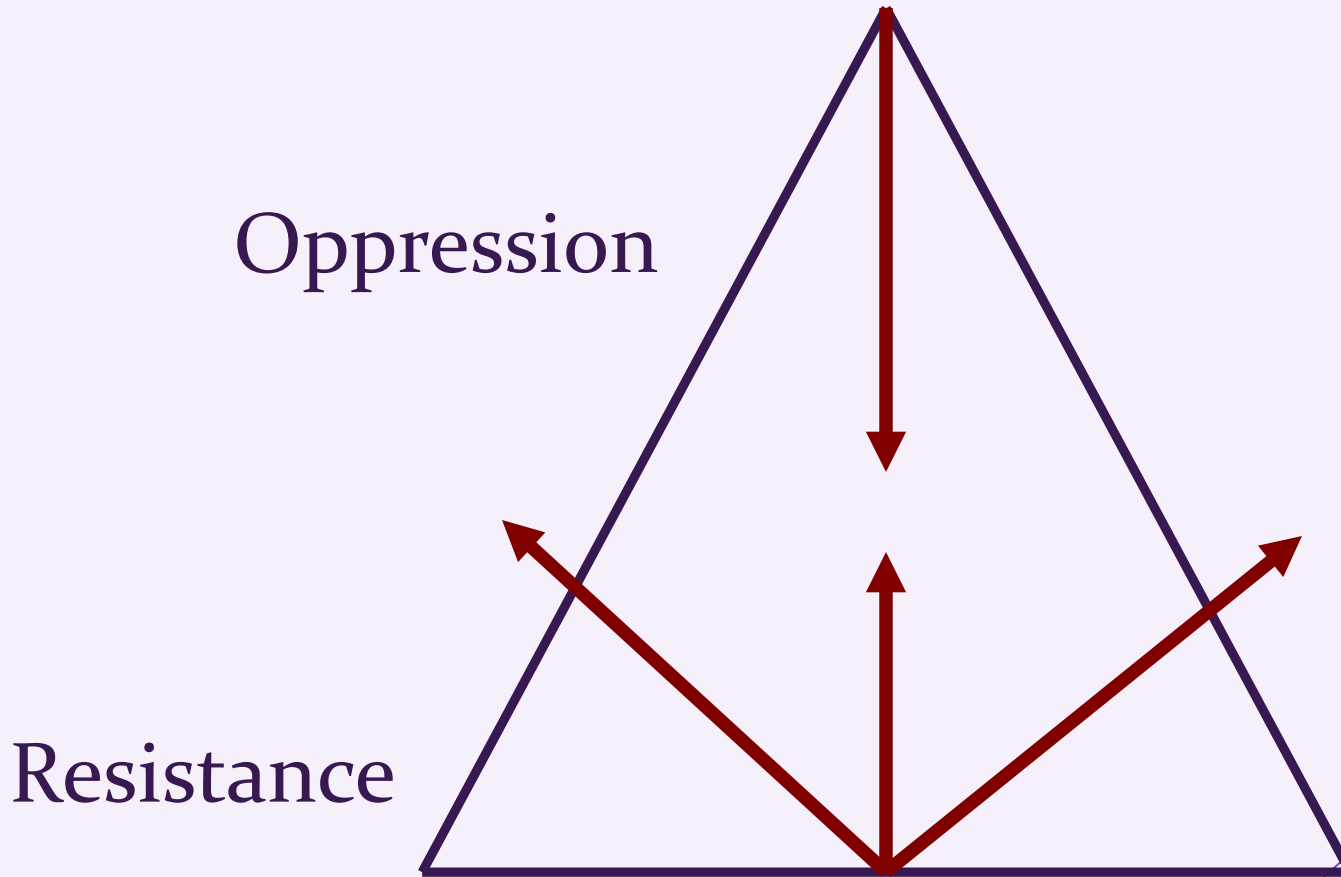
The Three Types of Domestic Violence

Battering/coercive control

Resistive

Situational

Understanding Resistance in a System of Control



For each woman and her children, what risks are generated by...

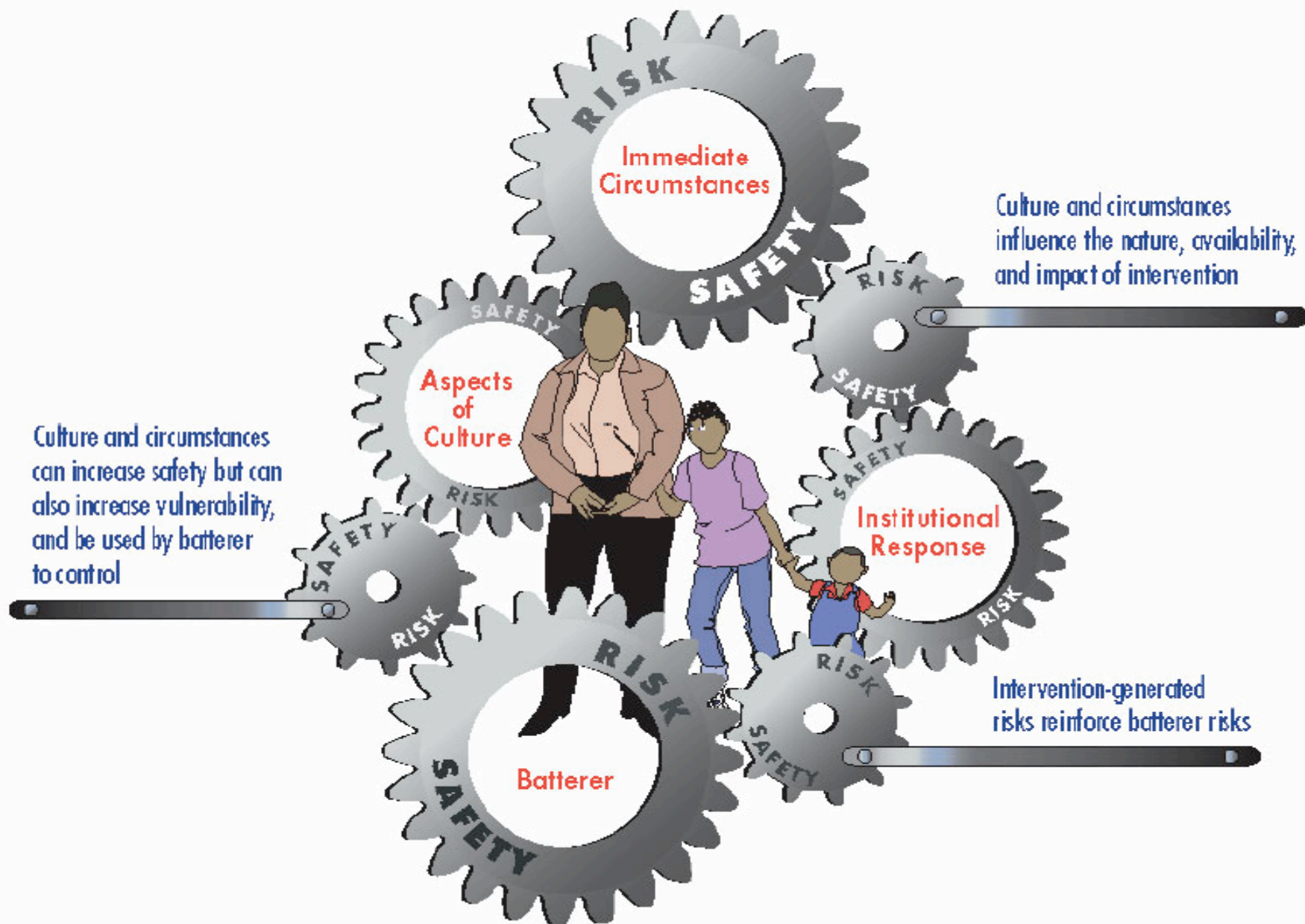
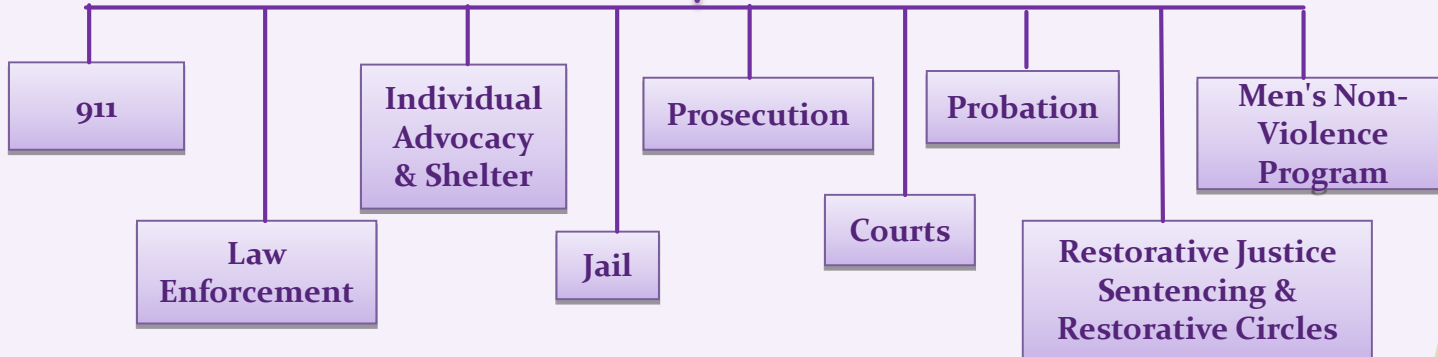


Figure 9: The Complexity of Risk and Safety 1

The Duluth Model Approach

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)



The Duluth Model: Principles

A process that utilizes a consistent set of principles, and a shared understanding of battering to guide the design of each intervention.

Six Blueprint for Safety Principles:

- Adherence to an interagency approach
- Attention to context and severity of the violence
- Recognition of domestic violence as a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement
- Providing swift and sure consequences
- Sending messages of help and accountability
- Reducing unintended consequences and disparity of impact

The Duluth Model: A Shared Understanding

- ▶ There are three types of domestic violence: battering, resistive and non-battering violence.
- ▶ The power of the state should be restricted to controlling the illegal activity of the offender.
- ▶ Victims are rarely free to cooperate with the system to hold offenders accountable.
- ▶ Account for power differences between victim and offender.
- ▶ Batterers are responsible for stopping their violence.

Coordinated Community Response

An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance of battering by:

Institutionalizing practices and procedures which centralize victim safety and offender accountability in domestic assault cases.

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs

Activities of a Duluth Model Coordinated Community Response

Discover the problems in a system's response to domestic assault that diminish safety and fail to hold offenders accountable.

Organize with agencies to solve those problems using victim experience as the starting point.

Track the impact of the interventions to see if the results match the desired intent of the changes.

Ongoing Evaluation of Recidivism in Duluth's CCR

Re-offenses defined as arrests, non-arrests, citations and granted protection orders within eight years of last class date.

1/1/98 to 12/31/99 (N=353) **29% overall recidivism** (includes both men who completed and not completed class)

1/1/04 to 12/31/05 (N=326) **34% overall recidivism**

- ▶ 29% recidivism for men who completed class
- ▶ 41% recidivism for men who did not

Counting all men in both evaluations, approximately **7 out of 10** of our male offenders won't end up back in the criminal or civil justice system 8 years from their last point of contact with the system.

Resources

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs

www.theduluthmodel.org

Domestic Violence Turning Points

www.dvturningpoints.com