Nuchia held a meeting of community leaders to discuss women’s issues. During that meeting, Chief Nuchia was asked if he would be willing to convene a meeting of decision makers in the domestic violence field, who could formalize agreements. He agreed to convene the meeting, but he felt that an official from Harris County should be involved. Harris County District Attorney John B. Holmes, Jr. agreed to co-host the meeting.

On April 18, 1996 the first meeting of the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC) was held. In attendance were representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, post conviction, health, education, domestic violence programs and others. All agreed to send people to the meetings who would have authority to help create written protocols. The protocols would include every aspect of the community that had contact with domestic violence victims. By April 1997 the Council had incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, adopted bylaws, and formed committees to begin the work on protocols.
Mission

HCDVCC’s mission is to develop and implement a community wide plan to end domestic violence, and the following goals were adopted to accomplish the mission:

Develop cooperation and coordination among all the participants who serve domestic violence victims; evaluate the current institutional response to domestic violence in order to develop and maintain a community protocol handbook; identify additional service needs in the community and work to fill those needs; educate the public about domestic violence policies and available resources; strengthen and coordinate intervention and prevention efforts; encourage efficient use of community resources and simplify and increase access to services.
Domestic Violence 101

DESCRIPTION

One in three women and one in seven men according to the Texas Council on Family Violence experience domestic violence during their lifetime. Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of death for women on an international level. It is also one of the most dangerous crimes that law enforcement will respond to; and it also a frustrating crime to address for most law enforcement. This session provides the overview of the dynamics of abusive relationships and insight on how the victim/survivor’s decisions to partner with law enforcement are impacted by the experience with the abuser.

KEY POINTS

1. Participant will be able to identify and discuss the tactics used by the abuser.

2. Participant will be able to discuss the mindset of the survivor/victim.

3. Participant will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the dynamics by completing case study assignment during class.
Case Study - 1

Client: Phyllis V.

Children:

Backstory: Currently in emergency shelter with seven children (3 girls ages 6 months, 2 and 11; and 4 boys 8 year old twins, 14, and 5). The twins are autistic and sight impaired. She has been unemployed for seven years secondary to being the caregiver of her twins along with the other children. Her most recent partner is the father of the two year and six month old. He is currently in jail, he was arrested for physically assaulting Phyllis and also her 14 year old son, who intervened.

She does not receive financial support from any of the fathers. She is receiving financial benefits for all of the children.

Phyllis is also working with a caseworker from Child Protective Services secondary to her most recent partner who assaulted her alleging that she is abusive to the children.

She has not spoken with her parents in almost two years and her siblings have told her they will not help her anymore.

Phyllis also voiced concern she might be pregnant again and expressed she does not want the baby because it is not her fault she is pregnant.

Based on Phyllis’ credit and rental history the last four properties you have spoken to have declined to rent to Phyllis. There is also on her rental history a history of vandalism by her 11 and 14 year old in the last 2 properties she occupied.

Phyllis also reportedly contacted the fourth property after learning she was declined and cussed them out and threatened to come down and beat them a$$.

She has accused you of not caring and contacted your supervisor stating she want another Navigator to work with her; “one that know what the heck they are doing!”
## SWOT Analysis

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Based on the information discussed, brainstorm with your group what tangible and intangible resources that survivors of domestic violence may benefit from to increase likelihood of continuing stable housing.
Check out the services and programs we offer.

State coalition provides training and technical support to domestic violence programs in Texas; and also works to support laws that protect and empower survivors.

Overview of services and legal information for survivors.

TEDTalk

Resources and information on housing and working with survivors of domestic violence.
NEXT STEPS
Implementation Activity

Over the next week using today’s session as a reference, set aside time to evaluate the current programs services available through The Way Home. Assess how the agency is already providing support to survivors of domestic violence and brainstorm on what other services might be developed in the next year to provide additional support based on the barriers and "mindset" of survivors.