



2023-2024

Domestic Violence
Regional Council Report



Contents

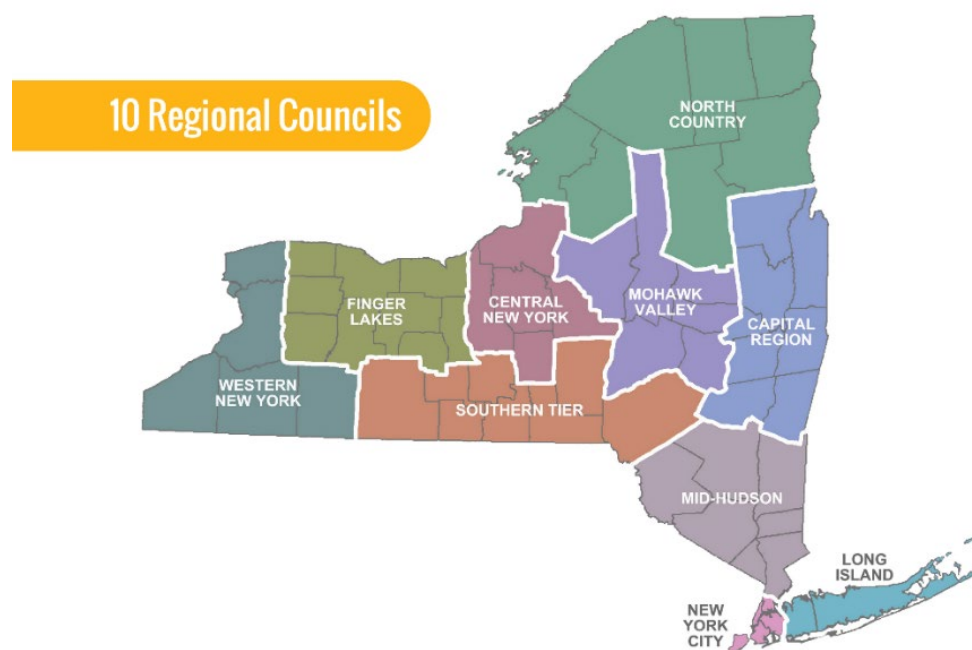
Introduction	3
OPDV Programs and Initiatives.....	4
Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence Initiative (STRIVE)	4
Survivors Access Financial Empowerment (SAFE) Fund	5
Safe & Together™	5
Police Training.....	5
Probation Training	5
Fall 2023 DVRC Meetings.....	6
2024 Meetings and Coordinated Community Response.....	6
Spring 2024 Meetings.....	7
Fall 2024 Meetings	9
Lessons Learned from 2024 Regional Councils.....	11
2025 Regional Councils	14

Introduction

The Domestic Violence Regional Councils (DVRCs) originated from a series of listening sessions with domestic violence service providers across the state, at which participants noted current methods of communication across systems and regions were decentralized and inconsistent. As a result, the 2019 New York State Domestic Violence Task Force proposed the creation of DVRCs to examine how services and resources were being delivered region by region. In 2020, the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV), along with our sister state agencies, launched the DVRC initiative.

The goal of the DVRCs is a collaborative reimagining of a more survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive domestic violence service delivery system. To achieve this goal, it is important to get input from all systems in the field to better understand what statewide policies and programs are needed and if there are any statutory or regulatory barriers to be addressed.

Information gained from the DVRC meetings is compiled on an on-going basis and presented to the NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council, state agency leadership, the Office of the Governor, and the state Legislature for consideration when making policy and programmatic decisions. Where systemic barriers that can immediately be addressed are identified, state agencies have the information to act in a responsive manner and remove such barriers. The work of the regional councils informs policy recommendations, training initiatives, significant system investments and innovative collaborations.



Led by local co-chairs, the DVRCs are intended to be comprised of representatives and providers from domestic violence service programs, local departments of social services, law enforcement, courts, probation, legal services, education, health care, mental health and substance use professionals, and other relevant stakeholders. OPDV's sister state agencies are

important partners in this work, including the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Office of Court Administration (OCA), Office of Victim Services (OVS), Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS), Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (OPCA), Division of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) and Department of Health (DOH). These agencies, along with statewide nonprofit partners, are invited and encouraged to attend each meeting. DVRC meeting topics can include challenges occurring across systems, opportunities for increased collaboration, funding opportunities, or any other of-the-moment issues impacting survivors in the region.

In 2021, OPDV issued the [first DVRC report](#), detailing the initiative and compiling lessons learned from the first few rounds of meetings. In the Spring of 2023, OPDV issued an [updated report](#). This document serves as a supplement to those reports and provides a brief summary of the Fall 2023 meetings, followed by a detailed review of the meetings held in the Spring and Fall of 2024.

Cross Agency Programs and Initiatives

The regional councils are a core component of the state's work on domestic violence and intersect with various other initiatives and projects. They are an ideal vehicle for disseminating the lessons learned from initiatives, such as the NYS Fatality Review Team and the OPDV Survivor Listening Sessions, to the stakeholders across the state working directly with survivors and those who harm. They also provide stakeholders with the opportunity to share accomplishments and areas for improvement with state agency policy makers. OPDV prioritizes centering the survivor voice by sharing what we learn from Survivor Listening Sessions with the attendees of the regional councils.

The information and insights gathered from the councils and our other initiatives leads to the development of new recommendations, collaborations with sister state agencies, new training initiatives, and policy proposals. The following are examples of accomplishments that resulted from the regional councils:

Statewide Targeted Reductions in Intimate Partner Violence Initiative (STRIVE)

Using funding secured by Governor Hochul in the SFY 2025 Budget, [DCJS will administer \\$23 million in funding](#) to law enforcement agencies, probation departments, district attorneys, domestic violence service providers, and other partnering agencies that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence in 20 counties to implement the STRIVE grants.

STRIVE will implement evidenced-based strategies to enhance the safety of survivors and hold individuals who harm accountable for their actions. OPDV and DCJS will collaborate to ensure that coordinated community responses and interventions are rooted in survivor-centered, trauma informed, and culturally responsive practices.

Survivors Access Financial Empowerment (SAFE) Fund

All forms of gender-based violence can have an economic impact on survivors and the health of communities. It is difficult for people to achieve and maintain safety without economic independence and stability. Flexible financial assistance is a survivor-driven approach that removes obstacles to that stability.

In the SFY 2024 Budget, [Governor Hochul announced the allocation of \\$5 million to victim services providers](#) for the provision of low-barrier financial assistance to victims and survivors of domestic violence. Funding is used for critical needs such as education and job training, food and household supplies, moving expenses, legal assistance, utility payments, transportation, physical and mental health services, and child-related services.

This non-competitive funding is available to non-residential domestic violence service providers as recognized by the New York State Office for Children and Family Services. In 2024, 65 providers received funding statewide, distributed nearly \$3 million and assisted over 900 survivors during the first three quarters of the year.

Safe & Together™

Safe & Together™ is a global practice model that refers to the belief that children are best served when we can work to keep them safe and together with the adult domestic violence survivor, while holding abusers accountable as parents for the harm they cause to child well-being and family functioning. The mission is to create, nurture and sustain a global network of domestic abuse-informed professionals, communities, and systems. The goal is to achieve a complete paradigm shift in the way domestic violence is approached by systems.

OCFS is implementing this model in the NYS Child Welfare system and partners with OPDV to help train child welfare workers with the goal for statewide adoption. OPDV and OCFS are also in the planning stages of a Safe & Together™ Cross System Collaboration Implementation Project to further implementation of this model in counties that have a robust to CCR team. These counties will receive technical assistance on the model and additional training that will be provided to all cross-systems that engage with survivors, perpetrators, or children experiencing domestic violence.

Public Safety Training

OPDV's Bureau of Law Enforcement and Public Safety has been working with law enforcement officers to support accurate, comprehensive completion of the NYS Domestic Incident Report (DIR) and strengthen law enforcement response to domestic incidents. A complete and correct DIR is instrumental as a relationship lethality indicator and a tool for Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams to improve the delivery of essential services to survivors.

Probation Training

OPDV's Bureau of Law Enforcement and Public Safety revised the pre-requisite training probation officers receive as part of their Fundamentals in Probation course to ensure the most accurate information related to domestic violence is shared. This course will be delivered to current probation agencies across the state to better supervise those who do harm, and support a more survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approach to survivors.

Fall 2023 DVRC Meetings

There were three virtual meetings held in the fall of 2023, with several regions combined for each event. All three meetings focused on how to engage men and boys in the prevention of gender-based violence. Don McPherson, former National Football League and Syracuse University quarterback and author of “You Throw Like a Girl: The Blind Spot of Masculinity,” presented his model of Aspirational Masculinity.

McPherson works with communities to embrace a masculinity that is aspirational. His approach addresses men’s violence against women by engaging boys and men in a positive and deliberate exploration of masculinity and the behaviors of and between boys and men.

Following his presentation, attendees were separated into breakout groups for discussion. They discussed issues faced within their communities that could be impacted with this model and framework. Key takeaways included discussion about how this framework could be incorporated into accountability programming. For example, probation directors stated they planned to incorporate these concepts into their work with male domestic violence offenders.

These conversations also informed the ongoing work that OPDV is doing through our Men and Boys Campaign and to increase awareness around technology-facilitated abuse. We learned from these meetings that programming is needed to engage youth more often in activities that promote healthy relationships. [The Governor announced in October of 2024 that OPDV is partnering with Don McPherson and the Alliance of NYS YMCAs](#) to bring aspirational masculinity programming to the youth that the YMCA serves.

2024 Meetings and Coordinated Community Response

Based on the results of a survey given to previous attendees, OPDV chose to focus the 2024 DVRC meetings on Coordinated Community Response (CCR) and cross-systems collaboration. This area of focus also aligned with issues identified within OPDV’s other sources of information gathering, such as Fatality Review and Survivor Listening Sessions. Feedback from those forums frequently indicate that a failure in the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response process in NYS is due to a lack of coordination among systems. A CCR is known as a best practice in improving the response to domestic violence.

There are different types of CCR models, some that focus on addressing systemic challenges and others that involve a collaborative approach when responding to individual cases. Systems-level approaches include task forces where stakeholders work together to address systems level issues, learn about services available, increase public awareness, and address challenges facing a community, but do not focus on specific cases. Collaborative approaches include joint response teams and the co-location of staff and services to increase the accessibility of assistance for victims using a unified approach. Co-location is a type of CCR in which an advocate from a domestic violence program is physically located within another system such as a police station, child welfare agency, or court, allowing a survivor to access multiple systems in one interaction.

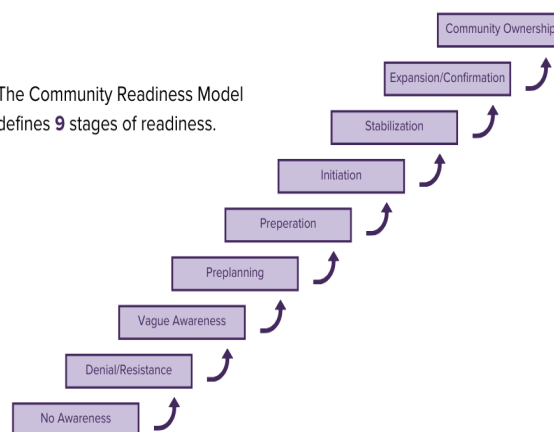
A High-Risk Team is another type of CCR where a multi-disciplinary team works on domestic violence cases identified as high risk for lethality. The *Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) Model* is a nationally recognized domestic violence homicide prevention framework, identified by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) as a “successful homicide reduction model.” The Model has been successfully replicated in a variety

of jurisdictions across the country with a goal of preventing intimate partner homicides (IPH) and near-lethal assaults. According to the [Geiger Institute](#), a national technical assistance provider for high-risk teams, the implementation of a High-Risk Team contributed to a reduction in domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts, with the [Newburyport](#) area having zero domestic violence homicides between 2005 and 2022 compared to eight from 1995 to 2005.

CCR is a core component mentioned throughout the United States National Plan to End Gender Based Violence issued by the White House in 2023. It states that “members of CCRs work to identify problems in responding to GBV and share ideas for achieving greater victim safety, reduce revictimization that may occur when a survivor has to navigate multiple systems, increase perpetrator accountability, and augment public safety and public trust.”

To provide a basic level of understanding of what a CCR is, OPDV partnered with Dave Ryan, Director of Westchester’s DVHRT to provide a [webinar](#) on Coordinated Community Response in April of 2024. Dave Ryan is a nationally recognized subject matter expert in the fields of domestic violence and human trafficking. During the webinar, which 220 people from across the state attended, we reviewed the definitions and structures of different types of CCR models, shared lessons from the Westchester High-Risk Team, and introduced the concept of [stages of community readiness](#).

The Community Readiness Model defines 9 stages of readiness.



Spring 2024 Meetings

In the spring of 2024, OPDV held ten in-person meetings with 455 total attendees, compared to 231 total attendees across eight in-person meetings in the spring of 2023. All were focused on CCR, except for the New York City Region, which by their request focused on courts. Specifically, they addressed judicial understanding of domestic violence, the courts’ response to domestic violence, and communication between the courts and other stakeholders as part of a systems-level CCR.

Three in four attendees who responded to a feedback survey stated that they would like to start or expand a CCR team in their community and almost all noted they were likely to attend the following DVRC meeting.

Analysis of the meeting’s attendance, highlighted in the following table, demonstrated the wide range of counties and systems that were represented and indicated areas where additional outreach is needed. The goal is to have the voice of each system and county represented. Notably, there was less representation from professionals working in the mental health, medical/health, and substance use systems. OPDV, along with the support of the co-chairs in each region, continues to conduct outreach to grow the diversity of the audience.

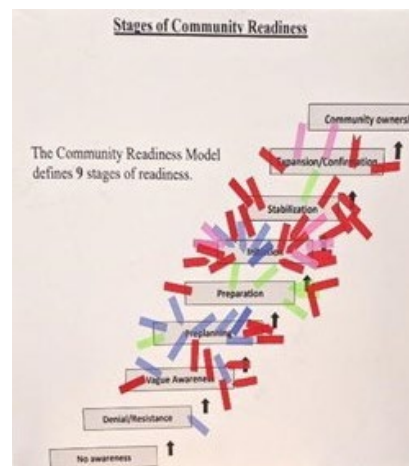
	ST	CNY	MV	NC	MH	C	NYC	LI	WNY	FI	SW
Victim Services	9	10	8	7	10	11	10	20	20	14	119 ¹
LE/Police	9	8	3	4	6	7	0	17	4	11	69
Other ²	7	1	2	1	2	4	15	10	9	8	59
State Agency	5	7	4	3	7	8	5	4	7	7	57
Social Services	3	9	8	3	8	1	0	1	11	11	55
Probation/ Parole	5	8	3	4	3	4	2	4	5	5	43
Courts	9	1	6	1	3	6	8	0	5	3	42
State Coalition	3	5	3	1	4	6	2	3	3	2	32
District Attorney	4	0	0	0	3	2	3	3	4	2	21
Civil/Legal	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	3	0	9
Total	54	49	37	26	47	50	47	62	71	63	506³

ST – Southern Tier, CNY – Central New York, MV – Mohawk Valley, NC – North Country, MH – Mid-Hudson, C – Capital, NYC – New York City, LI – Long Island, WNY – Western New York, FL – Finger Lakes, SW - Statewide

In all 10 meetings, the agenda began with an update on domestic violence related proposals in the 2024 State of the State and SFY 2025 Budget. Stakeholders were seated in diverse groups to enhance learning about different counties and systems. They were given a hypothetical scenario about a survivor’s experience and asked to share within their small groups how each county and system would respond to this survivor, helping to elicit how much coordination was happening currently. This was done to anchor the conversations in a survivor-centered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive lens.

The meetings then moved into a large group discussion where participants identified the strengths and resources across the region and the gaps, challenges and barriers present that could impact the creation or expansion of the CCR. Those who joined the NYC meeting focused this part of the discussion on cross-systems communication and the courts.

Because the stage of readiness is key to the next steps of creation or expansion of a CCR, attendees were given flags to indicate how prepared they felt their county was currently. The flags were color-coded based on county and provided a visual representation of where attendees believed the counties within the region were situated, as shown in the picture to the right.



¹ Within the total victim services/advocacy attendees was 119, 12 identified as from culturally specific victim services.
² Other system examples include but are not limited to: mental health, housing, early childhood programs, government representatives, education.
³ Some people attended more than one meeting. The total attendees for all meetings were 506, however, the total individuals reached across the state was 455.

This exercise highlighted where there was a lack of consistency in assessment within a county. For example, as shown in the picture, there are red flags in all but three of the eight stages, indicating that attendees from the county represented in red are not experiencing their coordination the same way.

After the larger group discussions, many attendees expressed that their community's stage of readiness was not as clear, or far along, as they had originally thought and that there was more to learn from each other's experiences. This was a helpful insight spurred by the discussion, as it informs the attendees' next steps and the technical assistance that OPDV can provide.

There were many common themes across all regions, demonstrating that despite their regional differences, stakeholders and survivors have many shared experiences across the state.

Fall 2024 Meetings

In the fall of 2024, ODPV held ten in-person meetings with 462 people in attendance. These meetings included value setting, discussions on confidentiality for a multi-disciplinary team, and challenges and action steps for each county. Present at the meetings were representatives from a wide range of counties and systems, which is highlighted in the table below. OPDV, along with the support of the co-chairs in each region, continues to conduct outreach to grow the diversity of the audience. Table seating was assigned by county to allow stakeholders from various local systems to work together to identify next steps to achieve their county's goals for CCR.

	ST	CNY	MV	NC	MH	C	NYC	LI	WNY	FL	SW
Victim Services	10	14	13	5	15	17	22	13	22	18	149 ⁴
LE/Police	7	0	7	4	7	7	5	4	6	8	55
State Agency	5	5	4	3	7	9	6	2	5	7	53
Other ⁵	6	8	0	3	0	0	22	2	1	9	49
Social Services	8	11	5	0	5	0	0	0	9	2	40
Courts	4	2	8	0	1	1	6	3	1	6	32
Probation/Parole	3	1	0	5	6	0	1	0	6	6	28
District Attorney	1	2	3	1	3	3	6	1	4	2	26
Civil/Legal	0	0	1	2	0	4	9	0	1	0	17
State Coalition	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	11
Total	44	44	42	24	45	44	78	26	56	59	462⁶
ST – Southern Tier, CNY – Central New York, MV – Mohawk Valley, NC – North Country, MH – Mid-Hudson, C – Capital, NYC – New York City, LI – Long Island, WNY – Western New York, FL – Finger Lakes, SW – Statewide											

⁴ Within the total victim services/advocacy attendees was 149, 8 identified as from culturally specific victim services.

⁵ Other system examples include but are not limited to: mental health, housing, early childhood programs, government representatives, education

⁶ Some people attended more than one meeting. The total attendees for all meetings were 462, however, the total individuals reached across the state was 440.

Values Setting Exercise

The tables worked together to identify and reach consensus on their shared CCR core values, as shown in the table below. Then they discussed what alignment with these values looks like when put into practice, and how they would hold themselves and each other accountable to these values. Finally, each table reported out one of their core values and how they would hold themselves accountable.

3-5 Core Values for our CCR	Why this Value is Important to our CCR	How we know are in alignment with this value	How we will hold ourselves accountable with this value

Common themes across the state in the values identified include:

- Collaborative partnerships and coordination
- Being survivor-centered, trauma-informed and culturally responsive
- Open communication and information sharing
- Accountability both for offenders and for the systems involved
- System-wide commitment
- Education
- Confidentiality
- Team cohesion
- Trust
- Prevention

Confidentiality

OPDV worked with Susan Carroll, Esq. Director of Training at the Pace Women’s Justice Center to create a Confidentiality Primer. This document describes the process for addressing confidentiality protocols and creating confidentiality policy on a CCR Team that will allow for the sharing of case specific information. This is a common challenge for teams that want to do case specific work together, because each system has different laws and regulations surrounding information sharing. Specifically, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) funded agencies, such as local domestic violence programs, have strict laws and regulations around information sharing.

According to NY CPLR § 4510 (2023) domestic violence advocates cannot be required to disclose client communications or records, except when authorized by the client, the client discloses intent to harm self or others, suspected child abuse or maltreatment, or in response to a properly issued judicial subpoena. Federal law also contains strong confidentiality provisions that limit the sharing of victims’ personally identifying information without informed, written, and reasonably timed consent. Other systems involved in a case specific team, such as a DVHRT, have their own laws and regulations that must be navigated as well.

Information sharing is a crucial step for any community that is working to build a team or CCR that works on individual cases. It is essential that the team members can share information about the case to coordinate their response and work in collaboration to address the safety of the survivor and accountability for the offender. The Confidentiality Primer was shared at each of the ten meetings, to overwhelmingly positive feedback.

Stakeholders indicated more technical assistance and support was needed around this topic. In response, OPDV is developing a desk reference to accompany the Primer. This desk reference will specify what the absolute requirements in the law are for each of the most common systems involved. OPDV is also hosting a webinar on the topic of navigating confidentiality protocols and information sharing on a DVHRT.

County Action Plans to Address Common Challenges

Each table group chose one of the most common challenges related to CCR and worked together to develop an action plan to begin addressing that challenge in their community. Then every group reported out one tangible action that they would take to move closer towards their identified goals. Examples of these actions included expanding training efforts, improving referral processes to existing High-Risk Teams, outreach to stakeholders to engage them in a CCR, and using current multi-disciplinary meetings to gauge interest, and increase buy-in, of a CCR for domestic violence.

The information provided is being used to inform OPDV's ongoing work with CCR throughout the state and provided opportunities for follow up on requests for technical assistance.

Lessons Learned from 2024 Regional Councils

Throughout the 2024 meetings, OPDV learned about the variety of approaches employed across the state's ten regions. While each region is distinct and presents their own set of circumstances that impacts their response to incidences of gender-based violence, they all agree that effective communication and coordination is essential. At each of the ten meetings in both the spring and the fall, we explored the strengths and challenges within each region and noted many common themes in all 10 regions.

Common Strengths Identified:

- **Safe and Together™ Model implementation** by counties addresses domestic violence in child welfare by emphasizing cross-systems collaboration and has resulted in improved domestic violence response.
- **Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)** are being utilized in some existing CCRs. When MOUs are instated between systems and used appropriately, systems are better able to assist one another.
- **Warm referrals to advocacy services** from systems such as law enforcement and social services are happening in some circumstances. This was raised in six of ten regions as occurring in at least one county of the region.
- **Co-location of advocates within systems** is occurring. There are also Family Justice Centers, which combine many domestic violence response institutions in one space.
- **Joint responses of at least two or more systems** together exist in some pockets of the state. This could look like an advocate responding to the scene with law enforcement

to assist with a lethality assessment or an advocate joining a CPS investigator on a home visit.

- **Prevention programming in schools** is occurring in some form in one or more counties within each region.
- **Awareness of the scope of domestic violence within the region** and a strong desire among attendees to find solutions to better serve survivors in each region.
- **Development of informal relationships between systems** in areas without a formal CCR, that can be used as a building block to develop more formal collaborations.
- **Utilization of lethality assessment tools** was consistent practice within advocacy programs and among some stakeholders. For example, some law enforcement agencies utilize an expanded lethality instrument beyond what is on the DIR.

Common Challenges and Barriers Identified:

CCR Implementation

- Stakeholder resistance to establish, develop or maintain a CCR.
- Limited staffing and staff turnover was raised by various systems (such as social services, probation, law enforcement, and victim services) as negatively impacting their response to domestic and gender-based violence.

Public Safety Systems

- Many regions mentioned concerns related to the training needed for judges and court staff regarding dynamics of domestic and gender-based violence, coercive control, lethality assessments, and described their experiences of how criminal justice reforms, including discovery law reforms, have a direct impact on the ability to support victim safety.
- Challenges obtaining domestic violence convictions, including due to procedural technicalities, can leave victims without protection and embolden abusers who know there is no legal accountability for their actions. Most importantly, it undermines the ability for victims to trust that the legal system can provide them a means of safety.
- Lack of available resources to prevent harm result in a system focused on fixing the problems created by domestic violence instead of reducing future violence.
- Inconsistent, understanding and training on assessing lethality. Many stakeholders were either unfamiliar with lethality assessment or unsure how to use its findings.
- Insufficient usage of DIRs, including access delays, inconsistent sharing among stakeholders, and inadequately leveraging them as a tool to assess lethality or domestic violence history.
- Lack of accountability programs for those who harm with respect to overall availability, inconsistent standards, and programs that are not consistently trauma-informed, survivor-centered or culturally responsive.

System Inadequacies

- Insufficient funding to support desired interventions, such as high-risk teams, culturally responsive services, and accountability programming.
- Limited housing options and burdensome system requirements for shelter was presented as a barrier for survivors to find independence.
- Lack of supervised visitation programs, especially for rural populations.

- Lack of understanding and agreement on the roles that different stakeholders play in a survivor's path to safety and an offender's path to accountability.
- Not all counties are implementing the Safe and Together™ Model in their child welfare systems.
- Lack of common language and understanding within the community about survivors or the general dynamics of domestic violence/coercive control.
- Lack of language access services, creating barriers for non-English-speaking survivors to receive services and share crucial safety information. This is also true for those who cause harm, as a lack of language access can create barriers to accountability.
- Lack of culturally responsive services.
- Limited school access to provide comprehensive prevention education, specifically regarding programs for school-based education on healthy relationships and consent. Although it does exist in some form across the state, current outreach is limited and inhibited by school districts.
- This range of limitations makes it difficult for the current gender-based response system to achieve sufficient safety for all survivors.

Next Steps and Technical Assistance

OPDV offered Technical Assistance Packages to all in attendance at the Spring 2024 meetings and did outreach after the Fall 2024 meetings to follow up on challenges, action plans, and any technical assistance needs. Stakeholders from several counties have reached out to request technical assistance in establishing or expanding a CCR, with more expected based on survey feedback. OPDV will provide technical assistance to these counties, assisting them in identifying which type of CCR they would like to create or expand, setting expectations, and assisting them in implementation. The Domestic Violence Advisory Council has established a sub-committee focused on CCR to monitor and research the status of utilization across the state and will make recommendations for a model policy on developing and sustaining CCR to share with districts.

OPDV has provided training and technical assistance to multiple counties, responding to the specific needs of each community requesting assistance. The following are examples of the activity and technical assistance being provided:

- Shared webinars to provide essential knowledge to prepare communities for these discussions.
- Along with STRIVE Field Advisors, we met with the board members from several of the STRIVE jurisdictions to assist with facilitating team communication, creating buy-in from other stakeholders, answering questions about best practice, providing guidance on CCR, and developing a strategy for building awareness of domestic violence in the community.
- Several communities have reached out for guidance as they strategize their action plans and develop agendas for their multi-disciplinary meetings, or to request tools and trainings to support their efforts.
- Provided presentations on CCR at multi-disciplinary gatherings in communities, to facilitate conversations around the steps to starting a CCR.

- Communities have reached out to talk through how to respond to common challenges.
- Connected communities with similar goals to learn from each other's successes.
- Facilitated conversations among stakeholders to assist in relationship building to set the stage for collaborative work.
- Working directly with several non-STRIVE counties to provide support as they navigate the steps of creating a team.
- Hosting a webinar presented by the Geiger Institute to address reoccurring requests for assistance navigating confidentiality and information sharing on a High-Risk Team.

The increased enthusiasm and activity across the state for creating and expanding CCRs and DVHRTs has highlighted a crucial need for guidance, support and model policy. The NYS Domestic Violence Advisory Council's subcommittee on CCR also made recommendations for consistency throughout the state and for creation of a model policy. To inform the development of a model policy, OPDV will hold public hearings to hear from local, state and national experts on CCR best practices, policy guidance and community needs. OPDV is also exploring partnerships with national technical assistance providers to support DVHRTs and other CCRs throughout the state with the distribution and understanding of the model policy.

2025 Regional Councils

In 2025, the regional councils are moving forward under a new name. They will now be called **Gender Based Violence Regional Councils** and will include all forms of Gender-Based Violence, rather than solely focusing on Domestic Violence.

Responses to the 2024 post-event surveys were overwhelmingly positive with most of the responses requesting the meetings be extended beyond two and a half hours to allow for more networking, relationship building, and to accommodate those who are traveling for the meetings. In response to these requests, the 2025 councils will be full day events from 10am to 4pm, and will include an hour lunch and additional networking opportunities.

The 2025 topic will be **Obstacles to Safety: Working Together to Provide Housing**. This will follow the same structure that was successful in 2024, including a March webinar to provide attendees with information about housing models and resources available in New York State. The spring councils will focus on discussions to identify the strengths, barriers, and gaps within each region related to housing for survivors. The fall councils will provide the regions with an opportunity to explore how to address the identified barriers and needs. State agency partners will be encouraged to attend the meetings to ensure comprehensive representation and feedback from the entire field on what is needed from the state to identify policy and technical assistance needs.