



## COORDINATION SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Local workshops with CCWS regional coordinators are part of a broad range of support that is available from CCWS. On first contact with a community, CCWS Regional Coordinators assess the state of community coordination. They then provide referrals and information about CCWS resources or other resources such as policies or best practice guidelines. If a community wants CCWS to provide in person training, CCWS works with the community to establish a local steering committee that will guide CCWS in providing the most appropriate and relevant training for that particular community. Workshops are then followed up with ongoing contact and support for the community, both in person and via phone and email.

For further information on the CCWS Project, or for help with your work at the local level contact:

### **Community Coordination for Women's Safety:**

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### **Workshop Components:**

The remainder of this document provides communities with information about available workshop components. These components can be put together to form a half-day, full-day, or longer workshop as needed.

### **Local Realities**

Our intention in providing this description of possible components is to assist communities to create workshops that address their unique local situations. For example, some communities may have worked to coordinate their response for many years, so their needs might focus on resolving historical issues or on moving beyond networking and information sharing. Others may have no history of working together, so their needs will likely be for basic information on coordination and how to begin working together. Communities with a number of local services may need to begin by clarifying mandates and addressing overlaps in services. Communities with few services may be more interested in working together to identify and address gaps in the local safety net. While communities are often dealing with similar issues, no two communities have the same needs or go through identical processes in building or enhancing local coordination.

### **Gendered Language**

Our materials refer to "violence against women" which reflects the focus of coordination committees that we have worked with that are addressing violence against women in

relationships and/or sexual violence. However, some have chosen to broaden the focus of their committees to address violence generally, others choose different terminology such as family violence, violence in relationships and domestic violence. The language can be adapted for the workshop, depending on the wishes of your group, and your intentions as far as the scope covered by the committee. In some communities gendered language and the scope of the mandate has ended up being a discussion topic during the workshop. Some committees have also chosen to work on it as a first priority after the workshop.

### **1. Findings on the Importance of Coordination**

*5-10 minutes, mini-lecture*

This component presents excerpts from research and coroners' inquests in which coordination is mentioned as imperative to improving the response to violence against women.

### **2. The History of Coordination in British Columbia**

*15 minutes, mini-lecture*

Coordination on violence against women has more than a ten-year history in the Province. This presentation will give participants an overview of the roots of coordination in government and the community in BC.

### **3. Celebrating Achievements**

*30-40 minutes, facilitated group discussion (This interactive exercise can be facilitated by two local co-facilitators or by the CCWS facilitator)*

All teams will go through cycles of process and productivity, when motivation and capacity will wax and wane. At one time or another, groups may want to "reground" themselves by acknowledging their history and achievements. Through focused, facilitated interactive dialogue this component helps groups rediscover their common ground.

- What has changed in (community) since the work of coordination on violence against women began?
- What do we want to expand on?
- What do we want to change?

**\*\*Newly forming groups may want to adapt this exercise to acknowledge all that has been done in their community to address violence against women.**

### **4. Coordination as a Tool for Coping with Change**

*40-60 minutes*

This component is for groups who have been impacted by external changes due to government cutbacks, economic decline, or environmental challenges such as fire

or earthquake. In this facilitated interactive conversation we address how the group has worked together to deal with difficult changes in their community

Facilitators may ask the group (and flipchart) the following questions:

1. Where are we
2. What is the impact of changes and losses
3. What's working
4. What's not
5. What strategies/tools have we used
6. Where do we go from here
7. How do we get there

## **5. What is a Coordination Initiative?**

*15 minutes, mini-lecture*

This component offers basic information on the definitions and purpose of coordination on violence against women. It is a must for newly forming groups and a good refresher for those who are “regrouping”.

## **6. Benefits to Women's Safety**

*20 minutes, mini lecture*

This component details how coordination on violence against women can impact women's safety.

## **7. Workplan for Developing a Coordination Initiative**

*10-15 minutes, mini-lecture*

Presents the essential work necessary to build a coordinated team from the ground up. Includes the role of a Mission Statement in building common ground for the group and briefly refers to other strategies listed in the handout for beginning and moving the work forward.

## **8. Strategies/Discussion Points for Beginning the Work of Coordination**

*20-30 minutes*

A mini-lecture on suggested discussion points that once addressed by the team can help build a solid foundation on which to effectively address the work of coordination. This component can be presented at the end of a workshop during the “building structure” section or depending on the group and other components selected, earlier in the day.

## **9. Using Tools of Coordination**

*20 minutes*

This mini-lecture synthesizes from the Coordination Workplan, the essential process elements to building and maintaining an effective coordination initiative. These elements include: roles and responsibilities, defining benchmarks for accountability, case conferencing and solutions management.

#### **10. What are the challenges and barriers? What makes it work?**

*10-15 Minutes*

This facilitated brainstorm helps to illuminate some of the process issues that *impede or facilitate* teamwork in coordination.

#### **11. Ground Rules for Coordination Initiatives**

*20 minutes*

This facilitated brainstorming exercise is designed to help a team develop a “benchmark” for how they will work together respectfully, a set of “ground rules, or climate goals”.

#### **12. The Cycle of Learning**

*20 minutes, mini lecture*

An effective coordination team learns to improve safety for women in their community, through collaborative intersectoral analysis and dialogue. This presentation shows how teams can tap into their own learning cycles to maximize their results and keep the work moving forward.

#### **13. Finding Common Ground**

*60 minutes, facilitated brainstorm and interactive exercise in small groups.*

A member of a coordination initiative brings not only themselves to the process, but the knowledge, attitudes, values and mandates of their discipline as well. These are likely to be very diverse and if not discussed can block the group from working effectively as a team. . .

Finding Common Ground is a process tool for coordination initiatives to use to build “common ground”. Such a process will contribute to a collaboratively built foundation. The exercise is designed to help a group develop a set of “beliefs we have in common” from a brainstorm on common assumptions.

#### **14. Building a Mission Statement**

*60 minutes*

Through facilitated brainstorm with slide presentation and a small group interactive exercise the Group will develop a 20 word Mission Statement

**15. Solutions Management - Strategic Planning for Coordination**  
*90-120 minutes*

In this interactive strategic planning exercise participants will brainstorm the current issues impeding victim safety and offender accountability in their community, prioritize the issues for action, and develop action plans on three key issues that impede women's safety in their community.

**16. Using Case Examples**  
*60 Minutes*

The use of case examples is one of the most important tools coordination initiatives can use to address issues in their communities that impede women's safety. Through cross-discipline analysis of fictional case studies, examples of local problems can be addressed. This method provides all members of the coordination team an opportunity to broaden their perspectives on the issues.

**A Coordinated Community Response to Sexual Assault**

**Components 17-22 can be offered as a discreet workshop, workshop section or added to any of components 1-16.**

**17. Myths and Realities of Sexual Assault**  
15 minutes

This interactive process will lead the group through an examination of societal beliefs about sexual assault, the victim, the perpetrator and the situation in which sexual assault happens. This examination will be followed by information on today's statistics regarding sexual assault in Canada.

**18. History of Sexual Assault and The Law**  
10 minutes

Over the last 35 years sexual assault law has changed dramatically in Canada. In order to understand where we are today it is important to look at the evolution of sexual assault laws in our country.

**19. Why Women Don't Report**  
5 minutes

Following on our exploration of societal beliefs and values regarding sexual assault the group will explore through brainstorming and discussion the fears that prevent survivors of sexual assault from coming forward.

**20. Impact of Sexual Assault**

30 minutes

Sexual assault has a lifelong impact on the survivor. Research has shown that effective, supportive interventions received immediately after the assault can make a dramatic difference in the long term impact for the survivor, and for the successful prosecution of the offender. This workshop will use a variety of formats to give a broad spectrum of service providers information on the impact of rape trauma and how a coordinated community response can reduce that impact.

**21. Sexual Assault Coordination**

30 minutes

In this interactive exercise participants will explore the benefits and goals of a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to sexual assault response.

**22. Strategic Planning**

2 hours

The development of a strategic plan is crucial for any organization to survive and thrive in today's environment. This workshop is designed to take a coordination committee through the process of developing long term goals and concrete action plans.

**Other Workshops:**

**23. The Myth of Mutual Battering in Heterosexual Relationships**

Full day

This skills based course is for community and system-based responders to violence against women in relationships. Participants will have an opportunity to increase their understanding of women's use of non-lethal violence in heterosexual relationships and explore strategies for coordinating a victim centered response in their communities.

**24. Safety Issues Protocol**

60 minutes

The Safety Issues Protocol is to be used when police issues related to women's safety can not be worked out with the local detachment. This short workshop is designed to build collaboration between community based advocates and police in order to circumvent the need for the use Protocol.

**25. Safety Planning**

3 hours

This workshop will offer participants an overview of violence against women in Canada. We will explore the risk factors that present in discussions with women who may otherwise not disclose the violence or may not be aware of the risk to themselves. Participants will be presented

with basic safety planning strategies and the many resources and tools that are available in B.C.

**26. A dialogue:**

**“Coordinating our Response to Women Who Fear Further Retaliation, or Who Are Otherwise Known as “Reluctant”**

Full day

This day long workshop addresses the most frequent questions asked by community members and service providers regarding a battered woman’s ambivalence to engage with response systems. Through discussion and case studies participants will have the opportunity to build local responses that will support women who for many reasons are reticent to engage with helping and law enforcement agencies.

## SAMPLE WORKSHOPS

### **Workshop 1: Basics of Coordination - 1 day workshop**

**9:00 - 9:10 Welcome**

**9:10 - 9:40 Introductory Round**

- Introduce yourself (your name, agency, anything else you would like to share)
- What brings you to be involved with the committee and/or with this workshop?

**9:40 - 10:30 Increasing Safety and Accountability through Coordination**

- CCWS Project
- What is a coordination initiative?
- Research and Coroners' Inquests Findings on Coordination
- History of Coordination in British Columbia
- Benefits of Coordination

**10:30 - 10:45 BREAK**

**10:45 - 11:15 Celebrating Achievements**

- What have we done to stop violence against women in our community?
- What do we want to expand on?

**11:15 - 12:00 Getting Started**

- Workplan for developing a Coordination Initiative
- What are the challenges and barriers?
- Ground Rules for Coordination Initiatives

**12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH and NETWORKING**

**1:00 - 2:00 Finding Common Ground**

- Develop a set of beliefs in common regarding violence against women

**2:00 - 3:00 Next Steps**

- Strategies/Discussion Points for Beginning the Work
- Local Action Plan for Building the Committee

**3:00 - 3:30 Closing Round**

- What is one thing your program/agency can commit to do to improve coordination on violence against women with another service in your community?

## **Workshop 2: Basics of Coordination - 1/2 day workshop**

**1:00 - 1:10 Welcome**

**1:10 - 1:30 Introductory Round**

**1:30 - 2:10 Increasing Safety and Accountability through Coordination**

- CCWS Project
- What is a coordination initiative?
- Research and Coroners' Inquests Findings on Coordination
- History of Coordination in British Columbia
- Benefits of Coordination

**2:10 - 3:00 Getting Started**

- Workplan for developing a Coordination Initiative
- What are the challenges and barriers?
- Ground Rules for Coordination Initiatives

**3:00 - 3:15 BREAK**

**3:15 - 4:15 Let's talk about structure**

- What might your coordination initiative look like?
- Who needs to be here and how will we engage others?
- What are our next steps?

**4:15 - 4:30 Closing Round**

## **Workshop 3: Strategic Planning - 1 day workshop\***

### **9:00 Opening**

### **9:10 Introductory Round**

- What is your reason for attending the committee?
- What is one thing you would like to get from today's workshop?

### **9:40 Community Coordination For Women's Safety**

- Project Overview, Resources Available
- Benefits of Coordination To Women's Safety
- Tools of Coordination

### **10:00 Celebrating Achievements**

- How have the committee and its subcommittees worked to create more safety for victims and accountability for offenders?

### **10:15 - 10:30 BREAK**

### **10:30 Reviewing Committee Vision and Goals:**

- Do these still fit?
- What needs to change?

### **10:45 Developing a Strategic Plan:**

- Environmental Scan

### **11:00 Identifying the Issues: Setting Objectives**

- Brainstorm
- Prioritize

### **11:15 Small Group Work - Developing Action Plans**

- Who, what, how, by when
- Document your action plan

### **11:45 Next Steps for Following up on Action Plans**

### **12:00 Evaluation and Closing Round**

### **12:15 Adjourn**

\*This workshop results in a Strategic Plan for Action on a minimum of 3 local issues.

## **Workshop 4 Sexual Assault Intervention for Coordination Initiatives - ½ day workshop**

**1:00 - 1:10 Welcome**

**1:10 - 1:30 Introductory Round**

**1:20 - 1:30 Video Clip and Debrief**

**1:30 - 1:45 Myths and Realities about Sexual Assault**

**1:45 - 2:00 History of Sexual Assault Law**

**2:00 - 2:10 Why Women Don't Report**

**2:15 - 2:45 Impact of Sexual Assault**

**2:45 - 3:00 BREAK**

**3:00 - 3:30 Sexual Assault Coordination**

- Results of Attorney General Consultation
- Benefits of Coordination
- Discussion

**3:30 - 4:15 Next Steps: Where Do We Go From Here?**

**4:15 - 4:30 Closing Round**