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*"Local Services, Global Reach"*

**Thank you to the US Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women for making this training possible!**

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# Your host today:



**Gael Strack, JD**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**FJC Alliance**

[www.familyjusticecenter.org](http://www.familyjusticecenter.org)



# The FJC Alliance Team



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Ret.**



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**Melissa Mack**



**Alexia Peters, JD**



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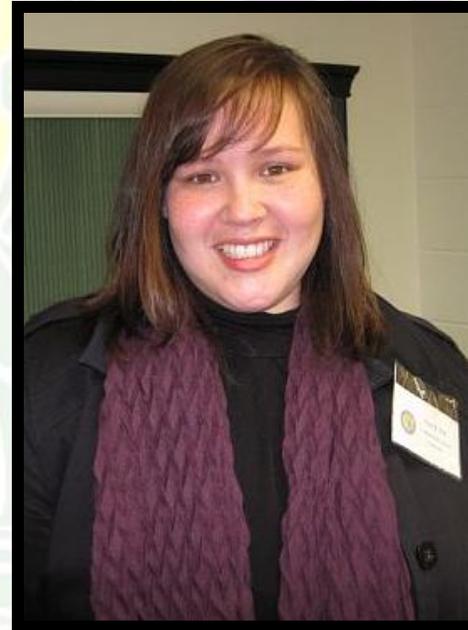
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# Your presenters today:



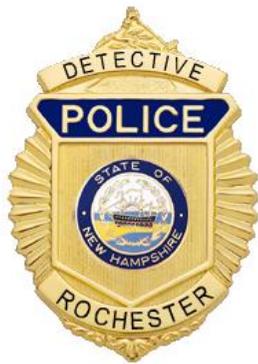
**Detective Bob Frechette**  
**Domestic Violence Unit**  
**New Hampshire Police Department**



**Paula K. Wall**  
**Criminal Justice Advocate**  
**A Safe Place**

# Lethality Assessment in Rochester, New Hampshire

Presented by:  
Detective Bob Frechette  
Rochester Police Department  
Paula Wall  
Criminal Justice Advocate  
A Safe Place



# Background

- Rochester, NH
- Population ~31,000 (2008 Census estimate)
- Largest City in Strafford County (pop. 121,000)
- 60 Sworn Police Officers
- 2 patrol sectors
- 10 Detectives and a Detective Sergeant
  - 1 Detective assigned to DV investigations
- Accounts for over 1/3 of DV arrests in the County

# Background

- All DV prosecution done by the DV Unit based at the Strafford County Attorney's Office.
  - Includes attorneys, victim assistance coordinators, legal assistants and an investigator.
- Member of the Strafford County DV Project
  - CCR also based at the County Attorney's Office.
  - In the planning process for our FJC

# Background

- Formal Lethality Assessment initiated by the DV Project and started in Rochester in 2005
- Modified version of Dr. Campbell's tool
- Mandatory in all DV arrests
- Intention was to share with prosecution, confidential advocacy, probation and BIP.

# Background

- The tool was used by law enforcement, sent to prosecution at the time of arrest.
- Due to a variety of factors use of the form ended and other tools were evaluated.

# Maryland LAP

- Started in October 2005 with:
  - 4 Law Enforcement Agencies
  - 2 Partner DV service providers
  - 4 Counties
- By March of 2009
  - 92 Law Enforcement Agencies
  - 20 Partner DV service providers
  - 24 Counties

# Maryland LAP

- Currently the program has spread to over:
  - 150 Law Enforcement Agencies
  - 49 Partner DV service providers
  - 61 Counties
  - 15 States

# Maryland LAP in NH

- In 2009, the NH Attorney General's Office began a pilot project in Merrimack County, NH using the Maryland Lethality Assessment Protocol.
- They had positive results and set a goal of instituting it statewide.
- Strafford County was chosen as the next venue for implementation.

# The Screen and Protocol

- Simple 11 question tool
- Developed, researched and implemented by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
- Unique because of the accompanying response protocol.



# NEW HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## LAP SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.		
▶ A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.		
1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.		
4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
8. Is he/she unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
▶ An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in according to the protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer <input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in		
If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline advocate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

*Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.*

- 1) Call Crisis Center Hotline at: 603-330-0214
- 2) Tell them your name, department and that it is a LAP call.
- 3) Give them your call back number.
- \*\*DO NOT USE VICTIM'S PHONE NUMBER AS CALL BACK NUMBER.\*\*
- 4) Give screening form to department LAP contact.

# The Screen

- Yes to any of the first 3 questions indicates high danger and triggers the protocol referral
- No to the first 3 but yes to any 4 of the remaining questions triggers the protocol referral.
- First responders may trigger the protocol referral even if the victim doesn't screen in.

# Protocol Referral

- A victim that screens in is told:
  - She/he are in danger and
  - People in his/her situation have been killed.

# Protocol Referral

- The victim is then told that the first responder is going to contact an advocate.
- The victim is given the opportunity to speak with the advocate.
- The advocate will go over safety planning with the victim and give a brief summary of other assistance that they can provide.

# Protocol Referral

- If the victim declines speaking with an advocate then the Officer obtains safety planning advice and shares it with the victim.
- Calls last 10 minutes or less.
- Overall goal of the call is to get victims connected with confidential advocacy to prepare a safety plan.

# Procedure

- Form is completed in:
  - All intimate partner DV arrests
  - When you believe the victim faces danger when you leave.
  - When the home or parties are repeat calls.
  - When your gut tells you the situation is dangerous.

# Implementation

- The existing strong CCR in Strafford County has aided in the implementation of the protocol.
- Rochester officers seemed more open to this concept because of the response protocol.

# Rochester LAP

## Statistics

- First screen administered in Rochester on February 28, 2010
- Between 2/28/10 and 5/22/10
  - 42 Screens attempted
  - 29 Screened in as high danger (69%)
    - 24 spoke with an advocate (82%)
  - 11 did not screen in as high danger (26%)
  - 2 did not respond to any of the screening questions (5%)

# Rochester LAP Statistics

- A Safe Place Statistics
  - 77 calls from 3/1/10 to 9/30/10
  - 48 of those victims requested additional services.

# Next Steps

- Continual re-evaluation of the program to study how we can improve.
- Working toward implementation at local hospitals.
- Screening victims that file for protective orders at the courts.

# Case Study

- March 2010
- In person screen at A Safe Place

# Case Study



## **NEW HAMPSHIRE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** **LAP SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**



Officer: Frechette	Date: March 2010	Case #: 10-12345-OF
Victim: Jane Doe	Offender: John Smith	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.</i>		

# Case Study

► *A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.*

- |   |   |                             |                                   |
|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?                                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |

# Case Study

► *Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.*

- |  |   |  |                                   |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| 4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
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| 10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |
| 11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans. |

# Case Study

► *An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.*

Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?

Check one:  Victim screened in according to the protocol  
 Victim screened in based on the belief of officer  
 Victim did not screen in

If victim screened in: After advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline advocate?  Yes  No

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3) Give them your call back number.

**\*\*DO NOT USE VICTIM'S PHONE NUMBER AS CALL BACK NUMBER.\*\***

4) Give screening form to department LAP contact.

# Follow-up

- Services from Law Enforcement
- Services from A Safe Place



- **Detective Bob Frechette**  
**Domestic Violence Unit**  
**Rochester New Hampshire Police Department**  
**[Bob.frechette@rochesternh.net](mailto:Bob.frechette@rochesternh.net)**



**Questions?**

# Save The Date

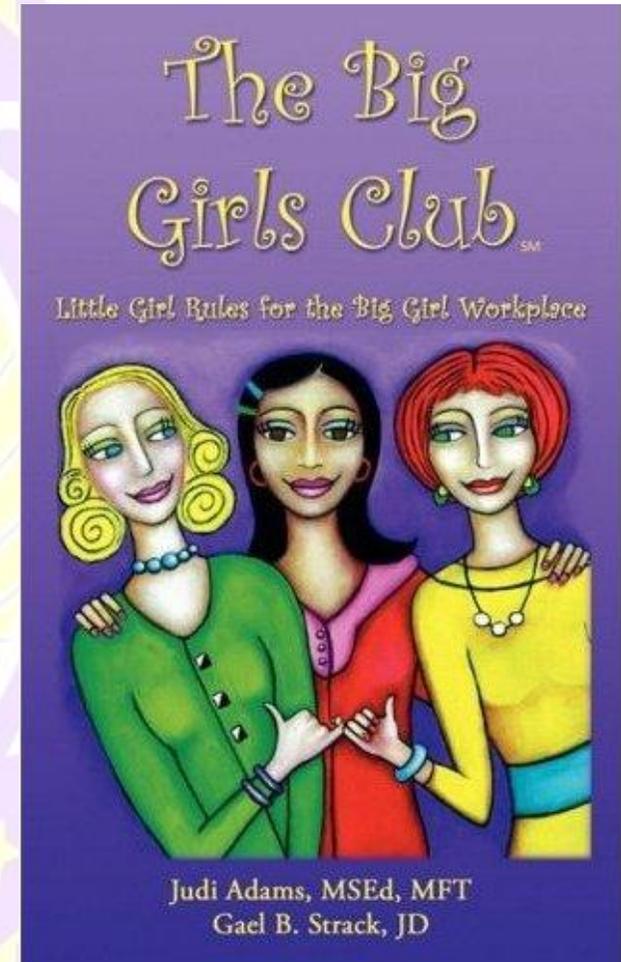
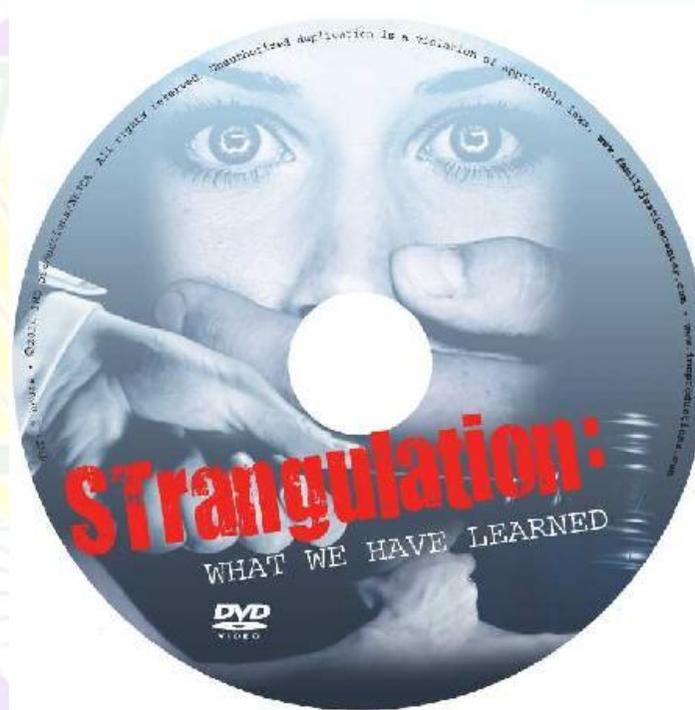
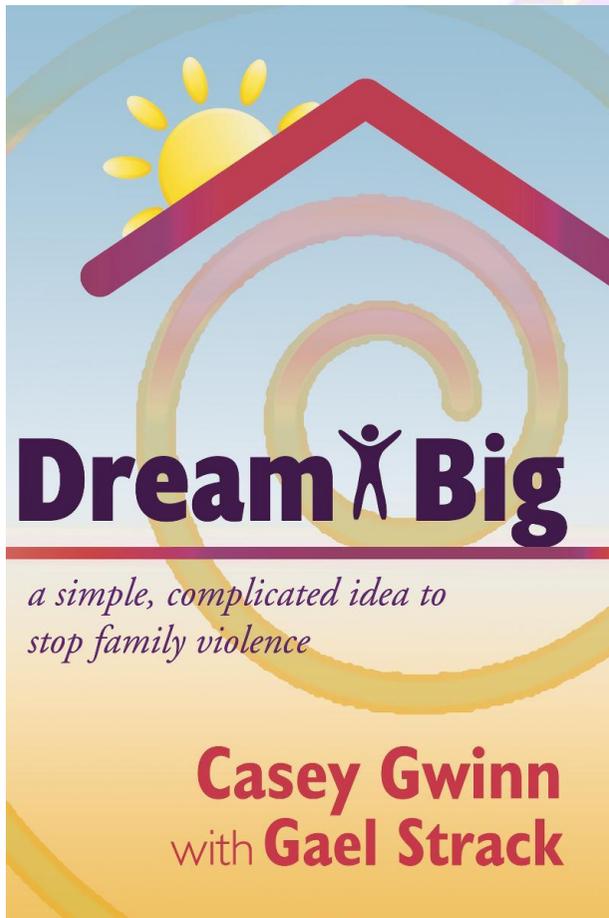
**2011 International Family Justice Center Conference  
April 5-7 2011 in San Diego, CA**



The three-day conference will include discussions on issues related to the handling of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and elder abuse cases in the context of the Family Justice Center model. The conference faculty includes nationally & internationally recognized subject matter experts, advocates, and survivors. During the conference participants will have the opportunity to meet with survivors and professionals who currently work in Family Justice Centers in the United States and internationally.



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