Linking Systems of Care Resource Mapping Activity

Community resource mapping is an important first step for Linking Systems of Care stakeholder groups. The community resource map services three vital functions: first it helps identify new stakeholders not already at the table; second it helps identify gaps in services; and three, it creates a visual tool through which communities can analyze the strength of their collaboration, communication, and victim-support.

A Strategic Planning Exercise

Use the following activity to work together to generate ideas about all of different resource areas that would be helpful in providing and coordinating services for children, youth, and families exposed to violence. Once all of the categories of resources have been identified, work in smaller groups to begin to fill-in specific agency/organization/provider information. Remember, this is an idea-generating session, and all ideas should be written down initially.

Step 1: As a large group work together to identify all of the different areas of resources that are need by crime victims and their caretakers in the community. The group should think broadly about services and try to generate as many ideas as possible. These should be "categories of service" rather than specific services – for example, youth activities as opposed to "Boys and Girls Clubs." Encourage the group to consider non-traditional and maybe unfunded sources of support and healing. After the list of resources has been developed, take a moment and, as a group, edit the list – remove any items that are too specific and combine any items that are similar.

Step 2: Divide the group into smaller groups and assign each group one of the categories. Ideally, there will be enough groups for each category of resource, but if there are not enough groups, assign each group multiple categories. Each group should start a new chart pad on the wall for their categories where they will record their ideas.

Step 3: Once resource categories have been assigned each group should brainstorm specific agencies, organizations, and providers that "fit" within the resource category. Group members should use their smart phones to include, not

only organization names, but also potential contacts at the organization which can be used in a provider directory.

Step 4: After 30 minutes end the idea generating session. Stakeholders should spend the next 15 minutes reviewing the charts and adding additional organizations and contact information. This can be done either as individuals (each person is free to move about as they wish) or as groups (each group rotates to other charts).

Step 5: Come back together as a large group and discuss the following questions:

1) What is the next step for using this information generated (inviting new stakeholders, creating a directory, etc.).
2) How do we plan to reach out to the organizations identified?
3) What is our timeline for contact?
4) Does anything additional need to be developed before contact (elevator speech, project overview, questionnaire, etc.)?

Step 6: One member of the stakeholder committee should be assigned to transcribe the material from the chart pads and distribute to the rest of the team.