

SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

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It has been 10 years since the SAFVIC program was funded for the first time in December 2001. Due to the collaborative efforts of law enforcement, prosecution, victim services and a number of individuals, the SAFVIC program has been enormously successful. In the past 10 years, the program has trained over 21,000 students and counting.

Thank you to the numerous stakeholders and organizations that continue to make the SAFVIC program a success!



happy
happy
happy
holidays

From the
SAFVIC
Family to
Yours!

Not Just a “Routine” Domestic Violence Call

By: Tina Chaffin
DFW International Airport DPS

It started out like a “routine” domestic violence call. The caller reported that her boyfriend was intoxicated, possibly under the influence of narcotics, and had assaulted her. As I asked the typical questions I heard the caller’s boyfriend cursing and breaking things in the background. Then, scattered in a string of profanities, I heard the boyfriend say three words which caught my attention: police, shoot, and head. I stopped mid-sentence and asked the caller, “What did your boyfriend just say?” She nonchalantly replied, “Oh, he wants the police to shoot him in the head, he is tired of life and wants to die.” Instantly, warning bells went off, responders had not yet arrived on scene, and they needed to be aware of the suspect’s plan. Officers were immediately advised of the situation, and approached the scene with caution. The suspect initially barricaded himself in the bathroom then crawled out through a bathroom window. A short foot pursuit ensued, and ultimately the subject was tased, and taken into custody.

Domestic violence calls like these are unarguably one of the most dangerous calls a police officer can respond to. Many times there are weapons involved, intoxication, and uncooperative individuals. Now there appears to be another danger for officers responding to domestic violence calls, Suicide by Cop.

In February, Lakewood, Colorado officers responding to a domestic disturbance call shot a female when she came out of her home and point-

ed a BB gun resembling a handgun at them.

In May, Long Beach, California officers shot a man when, during a domestic disturbance, he appeared to be pulling a gun from his waistband. The subject did not have a gun.

Closer to home, in June, El Paso police officers responded to a domestic disturbance call in which the suspect was attempting to flee. When the suspect emerged from his vehicle he pointed a gun at officers prompting them to fire shots. The suspect was shot but survived.



Previous training gave us the following indications for a potential Suicide by Cop suspect:

- A self-initiated hostage or barricaded person
- Has killed a significant other
- Demands to be killed by police, including setting a timeline
- Learns of a life-threatening illness
- Talks of going out “in a big way”
- Wants revenge on police
- Shows other common actions of a suicidal/depressed person
- Has a record of assaults
- Has experienced a major life trauma

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NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to mobilize against a dangerous crime. This year’s theme, “**Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.**,” calls our nation to stop this crime by learning more about it. Stalking can happen to anyone, and it affects 3.4 million victims a year. It’s a crime in all 50 states. Stalkers may assault or murder their victims, and they are hard to stop. The more you know about stalking, the more you can do to fight it. For more information, visit www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org.

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.
JANUARY 2012 StalkingAwarenessMonth.org

APPLY NOW

FREE 40 - HOUR SAFVIC INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

February 13 - 17, 2011
TMPA Training Facility:
Austin, Texas

We are now accepting applications for our 40-hour SAFVIC Instructor Course for law enforcement. The application deadline is Monday, January 9, 2012.

For more information and to complete an application, please visit our website at www.safvic.org.

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Domestic offenders may present an increased danger to portray a Suicide by Cop. Some of them have experienced a major life trauma; separation, divorce, or financial desperation. Typically the suspect's criminal history and in-house records will reflect a history of assaults resulting in many arrests and a negative attitude toward police. Suspects may be depressed or suicidal. It is not uncommon for domestic disputes to progress into a hostage or barricaded person situation, and sometimes homicide of a loved one.

How can dispatchers help responders foresee this type of event?

Dispatchers are trained to ask if weapons or alcohol are involved, details about the suspect, and what has occurred. The following questions can also be asked to get the state of mind of the suspect:

- Does the suspect know the police are being called?
- How will the suspect react when the police arrive? Will the suspect fight, run, or ignore their commands?
- Has the suspect given any indications they are

having suicidal thoughts?

- Is the suspect on any medication? If so, what for? Have they been taking it?
- Has the suspect made any specific threats or given any indication of how they expect this to end?
- What caused the disturbance? (listen for job loss, separation, divorce, and other things that might indicate a desperation in the suspect).

In addition to asking these questions, listen for the suspect in the background. Is he shouting profanities about the police, is he making reference to wanting to die? If you are unsure what the suspect is saying, ask the caller to clarify. Asking additional questions ensures responders get the "big picture."

Dispatchers and officers alike should check the location history, it can tell us nothing, or it can tell us everything. Look for previous suicide attempts, welfare checks, and domestic violence calls. Take the time to read the notes from previous calls. Previous call notes may show the suspect has made suicidal threats in the past, was uncooperative with officers, or even that they

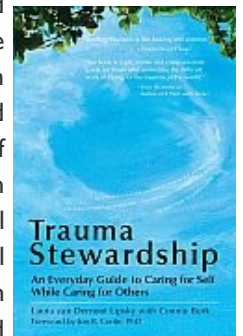
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Featured Book

Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others

By Laura van Dernoot Lipsky with Connie Burk
Forward by Jon R. Conte, PhD

A longtime trauma worker, Laura van Dernoot Lipsky offers a deep and empathetic survey of the often-unrecognized toll on those working to make the world a better place. We may feel tired, cynical, numb, or like we can never do enough. These, and other symptoms, affect us individually and collectively, sapping the energy and effectiveness we so desperately need if we are to benefit humankind, other animals, and the planet itself. Through Trauma Stewardship, we are called to meet these challenges in an intentional way--not by becoming overwhelmed but by developing a quality of mindful presence. Joining the wisdom of ancient cultural traditions with modern psychological research, Lipsky offers a variety of simple and profound practices that will allow us to remake ourselves--and ultimately the world.



"Taking on society's biggest challenges can make self-care seem trivial, even self-indulgent. We willingly subordinate our own needs to those of the work and the world at large, often feeling gratitude for the opportunity to do so, then wonder why we're so exhausted. Gently and insightfully, Laura nudges us toward the proverbial balance so that in the end, we can both work and live more fully."

- Chelsea Sexton, alternative fuel vehicle advocate and cofound of Lighting Rod Foundation and Plug In American, featured in the film *Who Killed the Electric Car?*

Mark Your Calendars


The 8th Annual Innovative Approaches to Family Violence Conference

January 12-13, 2012
City Place Conference Center
2711 N. Haskell Ave. #100
Dallas, TX 75204

Online registration is available
by visiting
www.dallasda.com

For questions, please email
srdavis@dallascounty.org

This book is available in the [SAFVIC Library](#) to SAFVIC Instructors only.


Bay Area Turning Point, Inc.
Featured Agency

By Jottalyn Campbell

Bay Area Turning Point, Inc. provides recovery solutions services for survivors of family violence and sexual assault and facilitates violence prevention strategies for societal change in partnership with our community. With more than 75,000 women, children and men positively impacted by this mission, BATP stands as a tribute to the power of volunteers and effective ongoing teamwork toward Saving and Changing Lives.

What began in 1991 as a grass roots effort with determined volunteers has since become one of Harris County's leading services providers and a valuable resource for both victims of personal violence and its greater communities at-large. Based in Houston's Clear Lake Area, BATP was launched in response to a service gap cited in a United Way Community Needs Assessment. BATP's service area today also includes unincorporated areas and towns in Harris and Northern Galveston Counties and portions of Brazoria County (largely Pearland's escalating population).

BATP functioned solely through determined volunteers until 1994 when one of the agency's original volunteers, architects and visionaries was persuaded to manage its growth. Diane Savage, LBSW, holds the distinction as the first paid employee. As President and CEO, she leads the agency today—upholding the founders' shared commitment to a debt-free operational philosophy and open fiscal accountability to stakeholders.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

BATP operates a 24-Hour Crisis Hotline which annually assists about 7,000 individuals. Callers seek help with domestic violence, sexual assault, acquaintance rape, stalking, incest, child abuse, elder abuse, substance abuse, housing and employment or share their thoughts of suicide or depression. Skilled agency staff is also available 24/7 for prompt dispatch to aid victims and law enforcement personnel offsite at hospital emergency rooms and police stations.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES

BATP offers core programs for resident, transitioning and nonresident clients. A custom-built shelter facility opened in 1996 and daily houses up to 65 residents, primarily women and their children. Clients may reside up to one year as they reclaim their lives and work toward self-sufficiency. 1) Direct Services Program meets essential human needs: shelter, food, clothing, transportation, support in accessing medical care, casework, therapeutic counseling in individual and group settings, structured childcare in an onsite state-licensed center, specific programs to build skills and confidence including tutoring, job readiness, classes in nutrition and parenting as well as special projects that lead to independence. 2) Self Reliance Program provides continued monitoring six months post-shelter including routine in-home visits, support with basic life skills such as budgeting oversight, and being a

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SAVE THE DATE
**Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
30th Year Anniversary Conference**

.....
30 Years of Working to End Sexual Violence

Come and enjoy exceptional workshops while you experience the delights of San Antonio!

Date:

February 26th - March 1st, 2012

Location:

El Tropicano Riverwalk
110 Lexington Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78205
Phone: 210-223-9461
www.eltropicanohotel.com

Conference Schedule Details:

www.taasa.org

Reservations:

\$117 Single, Double, Triple, or Quad
February 1, 2012 Group Block Deadline
Phone: 877-214-9768
or
reservations@eltropicanohotel.com

**7th Annual
Conference on Crimes
Against Women**

March 26 - 28, 2012
Sheraton Dallas Hotel
400 North Olive Street
Dallas, TX 75201

Registration is now open!

www.conferencecaw.org

Please direct any questions to

director@conferencecaw.org


**TAASA's Diversity Task
Force Scholarship
Application**

The Diversity Task Force is currently accepting scholarship applications for the 2012 TAASA Conference in San Antonio, TX. The scholarship is open to anyone who demonstrates dedication to and promotes social justice within hard to reach populations in Texas.

The scholarship submission deadline is January 13, 2012.

Click on the following link to complete the apply:
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/415587/TAASA-s-Diversity-Task-Force-Scholarship-Application>

For more information contact Rose Luna: rluna@taasa.org or 512-474-7190 ext. 13.



"Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, & stalking."

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sounding board when life seems overwhelming.
3) Non Resident Program offers services for women, children and men not requiring shelter to move toward self-reliance or who are addressing victimization before critical need for a safe refuge arises. Services include counseling and victim advocacy such as assistance with Protective Orders, Crime Victim's Compensation, and more.

PREVENTION EDUCATION

Significant advancement in ending personal violence is possible by altering our society's actions, attitudes and beliefs. By the mid 1990s, BATP staff began working toward this end co-authoring and developing curriculum on preventing date rape and dating violence which is now taught statewide to Texas youth. Our staff, in collaboration with local Police Departments and Municipal Courts, developed Project SAFE, a program implemented in three cities which offers follow-up services and safety assessments for victims of recorded assault cases. In 2008, BATP's mission was formally expanded to include violence prevention education and public outreach. Since then, the agency has emerged as a leader in community education actively developing curriculum to targeted populations that enables them to become

Change Agents within their sphere of influence. In 2010, 6,800 public, private and alternative school students and community members including civic groups and BATP partners participated in our presentations and workshops.

With a vision of peace for every woman, every child, every man, every day, we look forward to a time when the cycle of violence ends, and comprehensive services for domestic and sexual violence victims are no longer necessary. Until then, BATP maintains four principal objectives in serving its special populations. These are: 1) Provide quality direct services to child and adult victims and families experiencing domestic and sexual violence; 2) Operate through a client-centered philosophy; 3) Facilitate and support the empowerment and restoration of each client toward identifying and living a life of peace and purpose; and 4) Work towards eliminating domestic and sexual violence through prevention and education services.

For immediate assistance, call the 24-hour Crisis Hotline at 281.286.2525.

To contact the agency, call 281.338.7600 or visit the website at www.bayareaturningpoint.org.

STATEWIDE CONFERENCE



**SAFVIC is proud to announce the
2nd Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women
July 23 - 25, 2012
Location TBD**

This conference will provide free training and lodging for 200 law enforcement and telecommunicators. Rural Texas areas as well as counties and cities who have had a fatality due to domestic violence will receive first priority for admittance into the conference. All applicants will be required to submit an application and will be notified by email or phone once he or she is selected to attend the conference.

For further information and to complete the conference application visit the SAFVIC website: www.safvic.org.

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wanted officers to shoot them. Add any relevant information to the current call, and always advise responding officers.
Because a location history may not tell responders everything, run a subject history, before officers arrive on scene. Look for entries for assault, weapons, evading arrest, and assault on a police officer. Look at past interaction in your in-house records. How has this individual interacted with officers in the past? While the past cannot predict the future, it can give responders a better picture of what they are dealing with.
Ultimately, Suicide by Cop is a crisis situation

which has lasting effects for everyone involved, the officers, dispatchers, and victims. Never send responders to a "routine domestic" call. Send responders to a domestic with the possibility of a suicidal person, who wishes for responders to complete the act.

For more information about Suicide by Cop please visit the following websites:

www.suicidebycop.com
www.theppsc.org/Staff_Views/Pyers/suicide_by_cop.htm
www.policone.com/suicide-by-cop/