

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH RISK TEAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A. Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the commitment of the parties to operating a Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT), which seeks to identify and intervene in high-risk intimate partner domestic violence cases in Erath County through evidence-based risk assessment, interagency collaboration, and individualized intervention planning. The parties share the goals of reducing harm to victims, increasing offender accountability, and continuously improving the domestic violence response system.

B. Partner Organizations

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the following parties:

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| Adult Probation/Community Supervision | Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center |
| County Attorney's Office | Star Council (BIPP) |
| Cross Timbers Family Services | Stephenville Police Department |
| District's Attorney's Office | Tarleton State University Police Department |
| Dublin Police Department | Tarleton State University Title IX |
| DVHRT Coordinator | Texas Adult Protective Services |
| Erath County Emergency Medical Service | Texas Department of Family and Protective Services |
| Erath County Sheriff's Department | Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital/Medical Personnel |
| Mission Granbury | |

C. Purpose

The purpose of the Erath County Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) is to provide the most effective interventions for high-risk domestic violence cases to reduce ongoing harm to victims and increase offender accountability. DVHRT partner organizations identify high-risk intimate partner domestic violence cases, transfer information about high-risk cases across systems, effectively monitor high-risk cases, identify and close systemic gaps in response, provide community based services to victims at high risk for lethal or severe violence, and measure case outcomes through data collection and analysis.

D. DVHRT Operations

High-risk cases are referred by partner organizations to the DVHRT, which decides by a consensus of the DVHRT members present, whether to accept the case following consideration of the abuser's criminal history, the most recent incident of abuse, history of abuse and Danger Assessment score. Danger Assessment tool will inform the risk management strategy and decision-making of the DVHRT. The DVHRT will assess the level of risk and develop case-specific, individualized intervention plans. The DVHRT will meet quarterly (subject to change) to present new cases and review current active cases. Minutes will be taken at each meeting.

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DVHRT will provide ongoing case updates between meetings and will establish a process for accepting cases during and between meetings when necessary. The DVHRT will monitor court dates and status, release dates, parole hearings, probation conditions and compliance, as allowed by state law, protective order renewal, criminal activity, re-assaults and other regarding the welfare of the victim and safe keeping from the offender.

The DVHRT will keep record of all cases and will evaluate data and periodically release reports to the team on case status and outcomes. It will also audit and adjust its domestic violence response system through data analysis and take steps to remedy any identified deficiencies. Annually, the DVHRT will evaluate how effectively the DVHRT is functioning.

The DVHRT will distinguish and close cases once they become inactive.

The DVHRT will adhere to applicable confidentiality laws.

E. Roles and Responsibilities of Partner Organizations

1. All Partner Organizations individually agree to:

- a) Designate consistent primary and alternate DVHRT liaisons
- b) Refer cases to the DVHRT when appropriate
- c) Provide timely updates on DVHRT cases at meetings and when necessary, as allowed by state law and agency policy
- d) Participate in training intended to enhance the operations of the DVHRT
- e) Sign an updated Memorandum of Understanding as needed
- f) Participate in other efforts as agreed to by DVHRT partner organizations

2. Adult Probation/Community Supervision agree to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Use available offender history including risk assessments provided by the DVHRT to inform probation conditions
- c) Inform the DVHRT of the assigned Probation Officer, probation conditions, compliance and violations and scheduled conclusion of probation for high-risk cases as allowed by law
- d) Take timely action in response to any violations

3. County Attorney's Office agrees to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide the DVHRT with information on all high risk criminal case updates as allowed by state law and agency policy
- c) Set appointments for high risk applicants as needed to ensure they are seen as quickly as possible
- d) Use high risk case status to inform prosecutorial decisions

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4. Cross Timbers Family Services agrees to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide DVHRT Coordinator
- c) Use the Danger Assessment (DA) with victims of domestic violence to identify high-risk cases, incorporate it into its practice and systems, and ensure that staff are certified in its use
- d) Offer community-based services, including advocacy, safety planning, shelter, counseling, legal advocacy and provide education on domestic violence issues
- e) Set counseling appointments as quickly as possible for high risk applicants as needed
- f) Provide on-going follow-up with high-risk victims

5. District Attorney's Office agrees to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide the DVHRT with information on high risk criminal cases including but not limited to court dates, bail hearings and conditions of release as allowed by law and agency policy
- c) Use available risk assessment information to inform prosecutorial decisions

6. DVHRT Coordinator

- a) Accept cases onto the DVHRT caseload
- b) Facilitate monthly meetings and any other necessary DVHRT meetings
- c) Act as primary point of contact for all high risk victims and update partner agencies accordingly
- d) Will follow up with victims [dates/times subject to change] and will provide resources to victims
- e) Analyze case data and outcomes and issue periodic reports on case data and outcomes
- f) Provide or arrange training for other DVHRT partner organizations or newly integrated members

7. Erath County Emergency Medical Service

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Adopt the practice for administering the Danger Assessment for victims of intimate partner domestic violence to identify high-risk cases
- c) Provide appropriate care of injuries, and ensure the patient's immediate needs are addressed

8. Mission Granbury Shelter

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Expedite shelter options for high-risk victims if possible
- c) Use the Danger Assessment (DA) with victims of domestic violence to identify high-risk cases, incorporate it into its practice and systems, and ensure that staff are certified in its use
- d) Offer community-based, non-residential and residential services, including advocacy, safety planning, counseling and legal advocacy

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9. Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center agrees to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Offer forensic interviews for children in high risk homes, if needed, as a part of a joint investigation and in conjunction with any Danger Assessment concerns
- c) Provide community information as needed regarding the abusive effect of domestic violence on children in the home
- d) Provide ongoing counseling services for children who have experienced trauma in the home

10. Law Enforcement Agencies agree to:

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Adopt the practice for administering the Danger Assessment for victims of intimate partner domestic violence to identify high-risk cases
- c) Receive training for officers on the Danger Assessment tool
- d) Provide the DVHRT with timely information on all relevant case updates, including Danger Assessments, offender criminal history, and police reports as allowed by law

11. Star Council (BIPP)

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Inform DVHRT of assessed risk level of high risk offender/participants
- c) Inform DVHRT of assessment results and compliance of high risk offenders/participants as allowed by law

12. Tarleton State University Title IX

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide DVHRT with timely information and updates concerning Title IX
- c) Advise the DVHRT of any high-risk victim updates, as much as confidentiality allows
- d) Ensure the high-risk victim's needs are addressed and referrals are made

13. Texas Adult Protective Services

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide the elderly and disabled victims with needed safety services specific to region 3 and Erath county. Only available published public data would be included. Services include only those allowed by APS policy and are at the discretion of APS staff.
- c) Once APS criteria is met, refer the high-risk victim to community-based services that reduce the risk of abuse or enhance well-being

14. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide the family and or children with needed safety services
- c) Refer the family for community-based services that reduce the risk of abuse or enhance the well-being of the family

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15. Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital/ Medical Personnel

- a) Participate in scheduled DVHRT meetings where their presence is requested
- b) Provide health care intervention involving care of injuries, and ensure the patient's needs are addressed and referrals are made
- c) Serve as a liaison with the medical community

F. Confidentiality

Each participating team member will securely protect all information exchanged during meetings, and all team members agree to not disclose any of the shared information outside of the DVHRT except as necessary in court and with other members of their office for the specific purpose of accomplishing law enforcement goals and only as reasonably necessary to serve justice. Further, all team members agree to abide by all state and federal law governing the use and dissemination of private information.

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G. Memorandum of Understanding Signatures

We, the undersigned, have read and are in agreement with the DVHRT Memorandum of Understanding

Adult Probation/Community Supervision:

Name: Bobby Stidham

Date: 5-19-21

Title: Director

County Attorney's Office:

Name: Lee Rumm

Date: 6-17-2021

Title: County Attorney

Cross Timbers Family Services:

Name: Laura Gambino

Date: 4-1-2021

Title: Executive Director

District's Attorney's Office:

Name: M. Alan

Date: 7/29/21

Title: District Attorney

Dublin Police Department:

Name: Cameron Roy

Date: 6/21/21

Title: Chief of Police

DVHRT Coordinator:

Name: Aida Monreal

Date: 4/1/21

Title: DVHRT Coordinator

Erath County Emergency Medical Service:

Name: CL

Date: 6.8.21

Title: Ems Director

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Erath County Sheriff's Department:

Name: [Signature]
Title: Sheriff

Date: 6/23/21

Mission Granbury:

Name: [Signature]
Title: Executive Director

Date: 6/10/21

Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center:

Name: Margaret Cooper LCSW
Title: Executive Director

Date: 6/25/21

Star Council (BIPP):

Name: Terah Gibson
Title: Executive Director

Date: 4/01/21

Stephenville Police Department:

Name: [Signature]
Title: CHIEF OF POLICE

Date: 4/01/21

Tarleton State University Police Department:

Name: R M Wall
Title: Chief of Police

Date: 04-19-21

Tarleton State University Title IV:

Name: Lori L Beaty
Title: VP/CFO

Date: 7-28-21

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Texas Adult Protective Services:

Name: Ramona Black
Title: District Director

Date: 7/15/21

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services:

Name: McKemp
Title: CPI SUPERVISOR

Date: 4/30/21

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital/Medical Personnel:

Name: Cynthia McCarthy DNP, RN
Title: Chief Nursing Officer

Date: 6/17/21