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NEWSLETTER

The Power of LAP

“Calling the police is one of the most commonly used help-seeking strategies among women in abusive relationships” (Messing et al., 2015). When the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) study was completed in 2013, Oklahoma recognized this tool as revolutionary because of its ability to connect victims to services during the very first intimate partner violence (IPV) incident reported to law enforcement.

In practice, LAP was designed to help ensure that this connection to support services occurs every time law enforcement responds to an IPV call. However, as we have discussed, consistent implementation can be challenging. That is why our team is committed to facilitating trainings with law enforcement agencies across the state, to strengthen implementation and help ensure that victims are connected to potentially life-saving resources when they need them most.

This month, we had the opportunity to speak with a victim service provider about the impact of LAP on their agency and on the individuals they serve. We also spoke with two survivors whose cases included a Lethality Assessment. To protect their privacy and safety, all names and identifying details have been withheld.



Bring LAP Training to Your Community

Partner with Us to Strengthen Your Response to IPV

If your agency or community is interested in strengthening your response to intimate partner violence, we would be happy to provide a LAP training. Our team offers in-person and virtual sessions tailored to law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers. To request a training or learn more, please fill out the form below—we're here to support your team in implementing a proactive, coordinated approach to victim safety.

[Training Request Form](#)

Statistics

Oklahoma has consistently ranked in the Top 10 in women being murdered by men in single victim/single offender incidents since 1996. The most recent state rankings ranked Oklahoma as 2nd in the nation when analyzing 2020 homicide data.

Their experiences serve as powerful examples of how LAP can create critical opportunities for connection, support, and safety.

Messing, J. T., Campbell, J., Wilson, J. S., Brown, S., Patchell, B., & Shall, C. (2015). Police departments' use of the lethality assessment program: A quasi-experimental evaluation. *Journal of Women's Health*, 24(8), 653–660. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2014.4869>

Victim Service Provider Impact

Question: How has LAP changed engagement with your program?

Answer: LAP has transformed the way victims initially connect with our program. Instead of expecting individuals in crisis to seek us out on their own, the connection happens immediately at one of the most dangerous and vulnerable moments in their lives. That immediacy reduces barriers, builds trust, and reinforces that support is not something they have to navigate alone. We see stronger initial engagement because victims are being offered advocacy as a standard part of the response, not as an afterthought.

Question: What differences do you see in individuals referred to through LAP?

Answer: Individuals referred through LAP are often in high-risk situations and may not have fully recognized the level of danger they were facing. Because the assessment occurs during law enforcement response, we are able to intervene at a critical point in time. We see stronger ongoing engagement from these referrals. The immediate connection builds trust, and with sustained advocacy support and education, victims are better equipped to make informed safety decisions like choosing to leave abusive relationships when it is safe to do so.

Attend the Partners for Change Conference

The Partners for Change Conference will be held on September 2nd and 3rd at the Embassy Suites in Norman, Oklahoma. The annual, multidisciplinary Partners for Change Conference brings current and innovative trainings to Oklahoma in support of a coordinated community response comprised of allied professions who are involved in violence against women work. The conference is an important part of a community continuum to enhance safety for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking (trafficking must involve an element of domestic/dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking) and end violence against women in our state.

Right now, the Partners for Change Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals for workshops for its annual conference. The workshops should address issues that aid in the development and strengthening of the criminal justice system's response to violence against women and support and enhance services for victims. Workshops focusing on stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse, sex trafficking and culture-specific response from multi-disciplines are invited. Apply today using the link or QR code below! Workshop Proposals are due by May 31, 2026.



Question: How does LAP impact safety outcomes?

Answer: LAP improves safety outcomes by identifying high-risk cases and creating an immediate bridge to advocacy. Early safety planning and risk education can be lifesaving. Even when services are declined initially, victims leave knowing support is available, which increases the likelihood of future engagement and long-term safety.

Question: How has LAP affected collaboration with law enforcement?

Answer: When implemented consistently and with fidelity, LAP strengthens collaboration between advocacy and law enforcement. It provides a shared framework for identifying risk and reinforces a coordinated response centered on survivor safety. Strong communication and ongoing training are key to ensuring the process works as intended.

Question: What stands out most about LAP's impact?

Answer: What stands out most is the ability to intervene at a pivotal moment. LAP immediately connects victims in high-risk situations to support. That timely access can shift outcomes, sometimes in small ways, sometimes in life-saving ones.

We are also currently accepting vendor applications for the Partners for Change Conference! Vendor options begin at \$50 per table, with a variety of opportunities available. We encourage unique and diverse vendors to apply, including those offering jewelry, handcrafted items, and industry-related goods and services.



Resources

We offer two versions of the LAP Form: a Fillable version and a Printable version. The Printable form is a static version designed for manual completion, while the Fillable form allows users to complete it electronically. Both versions include a drop-down list of all OAG-Certified Victim Service Providers.

[LAP Form - Printable](#)

[LAP Form - Fillable](#)

[OAG LAP Team Webpage](#)



Survivor Impact

The true impact of this work is best understood through the voices of those it serves. Below, a survivor shares their experience:

“Seeing the results of the lethality assessment validated my decision to leave. For a long time, I minimized the warning signs and made excuses for my partner’s behavior, convincing myself he would never truly harm me, until he did. After I left and reviewed the assessment, it confirmed what I had been unable to fully accept: my life was truly in danger. It affirmed that leaving was not only the right choice, but a necessary one for my safety.”

More Than a Tool

These statements remind us that the Lethality Assessment Protocol is more than a tool, it is a lifeline. Its impact reaches far beyond a single call, strengthening the work of service providers and creating pathways to safety and hope for survivors. At the heart of this work are real people, real lives, and real futures that can be changed by a single, intentional action. Let this serve as a reminder of why we do what we do. By continuing to educate ourselves and strengthen our use of the LAP, we ensure that we are not waiting for tragedy to occur, we are working to prevent it.

Contact Information

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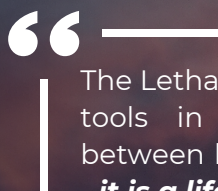
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“The Lethality Assessment Protocol represents one of our most critical tools in protecting vulnerable Oklahomans. This partnership between law enforcement and victim advocates isn’t just procedure - ***it is a lifeline that saves lives.***”



GENTNER DRUMMOND
Oklahoma Attorney General