

**Orientation to the Domestic Violence
Technical Assistance
Process for Healthy Start Grantees**

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Moderator

- **Johannie G. Escarne, MPH, LT,**
**US Public Health Service Public Health
Analyst**



**Introduction to the
Healthy Start Domestic Violence
Technical Assistance Project**

José A. Rivera, J.D.
Project Director
President & CEO
Rivera, Sierra & Company, Inc. (RSC)
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Agenda

- **Overview of the TA Project**
 - José Rivera, TA Project Director
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Closing**

Why Provide Domestic Violence TA to Healthy Start Grantees?

- There is a direct correlation between domestic violence (DV) and perinatal health and post-partum well being.
- Within the Healthy Start Population, there is a higher likelihood of DV related issues due to poverty, lack of resources and other demographic factors.
- Existence of DV is often a sign of other co-existing issues such as substance abuse, PTSD, intergenerational trauma, etc. Women with DV issues often “self-medicate” with alcohol or other addictive substances.

Goals of the TA Project

- To enhance the knowledge of Healthy Start grantees with respect to the biopsychosocial impacts associated with domestic violence.
- To assist Healthy Start grantees to better assess their organizational readiness to address the issue of domestic violence.
- To provide Healthy Start grantees with the latest best practice models for assisting clients exposed to domestic violence.
- To enhance the safety and well-being of Healthy Start clients and thus reduce infant mortality and injury associated with domestic violence.

TA Philosophical Principles

- Domestic violence often involves a complex interaction among factors that go far beyond the violence itself.
- The best staff may have issues of their own which can sometimes interfere with the ability to objectively address the issues of the client.
- Helping a client to address violence can be the beginning of a healthy and therapeutic process that will assure better health outcomes for both mother and child and, perhaps, allow the mother to address other related life stressors.

Project Vision

- To develop an individualized plan for technical assistance which addresses domestic violence screening, assessment, intervention, cultural competence, referrals and collaboration
- To provide on-site TA to Healthy Start grantees which flows from the needs assessment
- To provide HRSA with evaluation data and lessons learned from the TA process.

Cultural Competence

Cultural Competence as an essential component of this Project because:

- A significant segment of the Healthy Start population comes from Communities of Color.
- Lack of cultural competence is demonstrated to be one of the critical barriers to addressing DV in Communities of Color.
- Cultural competence leads to better and more accurate diagnoses and overall healthcare.
- Cultural Competence is critical to ending racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

The Needs Assessment Process

- TA Project Staff, working with Division staff, will develop a process for assessing the technical assistance needs of each grantee with respect to domestic violence.
- The assessment document will be mailed to each grantee prior to the assessment interview.
- A consultant to the TA Project will conduct the assessment of the strengths of each grantee and their need for TA on the subject of domestic violence.

The Technical Assistance Plan

- The TA Project Director will work with the assigned Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) to create a TA Plan for the assigned grantee.
- All TA plans are reviewed and subject to the approval of the Federal Project Officer (FPO) in consultation with the grantee project officer.
- TA Project staff will coordinate logistics and dates for the TA directly with the grantee subject to the review and approval of the FPO.

The On-Site Technical Assistance

- The assigned TAP will proceed on-site to conduct the TA pursuant to the TA Plan and consistent with the findings of the needs assessment.
- For Quality Assurance (QA) purposes, the TA Project Director will join each TAP on one visit in order to evaluate activity and insure a uniformity of approach and optimum level of quality.
- The TAP will submit the draft report to the TA Project Director who will edit/revise and submit the report to the FPO for review and approval.

On Site TA

- Prevalence Data
- Domestic violence process and processing.
- Staff training.
- Corporate culture and cultural competence issues.
- Protocols and procedures in place for screening, assessment, intervention, safety planning and follow-up.
- Collaboration and Referrals
- Confidentiality
- Mandatory reporting requirements.

What is Expected of Each Grantee

- Put together the documents necessary for the assessment process.
- Bring together the right people to participate in the process.
- Participate in the assessment process and in the TA process

Preparing documents...

- Prevalence data regarding DV in your community
- Local studies on DV generally or related to Healthy Start population
- All protocols for screening, assessing or referring clients with DV related issues
- Agency policies on DV or violence in the workplace.
- DV and Cultural Competence training curriculum
- Safety Assessment or Safety Planning Protocols.
- Materials given to Clients re: DV.

Bringing people together...

- Your board
- Your staff
- Your stakeholders
- Your DV partners
- Your clients or client advocates

Participate...

- Work with us to make the assessment as individualized as possible
- Give us two days to work with you and your staff
- Teach us about your program and how you meet the needs of domestic violence victims



Thank you.

José Rivera

Any Questions?
