

## **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) 2.0**

The LAP, created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) and based off of Dr. Jackie Campbell's research, is an innovative, award-winning, nationally recognized practice to prevent intimate partner homicides (IPH) and serious intimate partner violence (IPV). The LAP has been identified as a "supported intervention" according to the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Continuum of Evidence Effectiveness, and as a "leading promising practice" by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

**By Darrell Holly, MNADV**

### **What does it do?**

The LAP is a program that is designed to prevent IPH and serious abuse. As a part of the LAP, first responders use an evidence-based, 11-question instrument called the Lethality Screen to assess a victim's risk of being killed by an intimate partner.

### **What does it involve?**

When a victim is identified as "High-Danger" from the Lethality Screen, the first responder calls the local DV service program's (DVSP) hotline from the scene and asks the victim if they'd like to speak with an advocate about their safety and services.

### **Who should use it?**

The LAP 2.0 enables first responders and advocates to work as equal partners in a collaborative way to engage victims. The LAP was designed for law enforcement but other practitioners who use it include advocates, hospital staff, and social workers.

### **When should it be used?**

The LAP is initiated when an officer arrives at the scene of an IPV incident and assesses the victim's situation. If the officer believes the victim is in danger or if there is any doubt about their safety, the officer will ask the victim to answer the Lethality Screen. The Lethality Screen should only be administered in IPV cases.

### **How does it work?**

As part of the LAP 2.0, officers must inform the victim of the potential discoverability of their responses. If their responses to the questions indicate "High-Danger," the officer privately informs the victim about their concern for their safety. The officer then calls the local DVSP's hotline to connect the victim with services.

### **Is training needed?**

The LAP 2.0 can be used after a partnership between the DVSP and law enforcement is established. Both agencies will participate in an in-depth implementation process with MNADV. To receive ongoing training and technical assistance, the agency can subscribe to one of the LAP 2.0 subscription models.

### **Who is the LAP 2.0 Validated for?**

The Lethality Screen has been validated for women in heterosexual relationships. The participants in the validation study were from different ages, social-economic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.