

Amy Harvey

From: Caitlin Fenhagen <cfenhagen@orangecountync.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2022 1:02 PM
To: Town Council; Adam Searing; Amy Harvey; Amy Ryan; Camille Berry; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Paris Miller-Foushee; Tai Huynh
Cc: Maurice Jones; CHRIS BLUE; Sheriff Charles Blackwood; Chris Atack; Duane Hampton
Subject: Lethality Assessment Protocol ARPA Proposal

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Dear Mayor Hemminger, Mayor Pro Tem Stegman, and Members of the Chapel Hill Council,

On Wednesday, November 2nd, you will be considering a recommendation from Town Staff to fund an ARPA proposal from the Compass Center to support the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP). I wanted to give a summary of the importance of implementing the LAP Protocol in Chapel Hill and Orange County and an overview of the strong support that exists for this implementation from law enforcement, court stakeholders and advocates for survivors of domestic violence:

- The LAP Program enables law enforcement officers and domestic violence service providers to work together to intervene at the scene of intimate partner violence to assess lethality and risk and to connect survivors to immediate support and safety resources from a 24/7 DV Crisis provider.
- The LAP Program, an evidence-based DV intervention established in Maryland, has been strongly advocated in North Carolina by Attorney General Josh Stein. The Department of Justice is able to provide free training on the LAP curriculum for law enforcement and DV providers and has a dedicated position to support counties in their implementation.
- To date, ten counties (including our surrounding counties of Durham, Alamance and Wake) have implemented LAP or have the implementation underway.
- The Orange County Board of County Commissioners previously approved \$60,000 in funds for the Compass Center to implement LAP, but an additional \$120,000 is needed to ensure support for the full initial implementation and staffing.
- Orange County law enforcement, court stakeholders, the Compass Center and other DV advocates have been meeting since 2019 to discuss the importance of planning for this critical resource to support DV survivors. All law enforcement chiefs, including Chapel Hill Police Chief Chris Blue, Sheriff Charles Blackwood, Hillsborough Chief Duane Hampton and Carrboro Police Chief Chris Atack, have expressed strong support for bringing the program to their agencies and the community.
- Planning was delayed by a change in leadership at the Compass Center, a LAP curriculum revision and then the COVID pandemic.
- However, the Compass Center is fully ready to move forward if funding is received, the LAP curriculum is revised, trainings at the NC DOJ have resumed and the pandemic has increased the urgency for implementation.
- The number of DV calls to 911 and requests for DV protection orders has dramatically increased in Orange County since 2020. Immediate support at the scene of the incident will increase the connection to safety services and planning for vulnerable survivors disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this proposal and please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Cait Fenhagen

Caitlin Fenhagen
Criminal Justice Resource Director



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