

# **UTAH INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

## **Memorandum Of Understanding / Shared Expectations**

---

WHEREAS, Utah Tech University Police Department, and DOVE Center have come together to implement Utah's Intimate Partner Violence Lethality Assessment Program; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to enter into an agreement setting forth the services to be provided;

### **I. DESCRIPTION OF PARTNER AGENCIES**

1. Utah Tech University Police Department is a law enforcement agency in Washington County. Law Enforcement responds to calls for service relating to intimate partner violence in the domestic violence agency's service area.
2. DOVE Center is the community-based victim services organization in Washington County that provides community-based domestic violence victim advocate services and emergency shelter for domestic violence victims.

### **II. DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIP**

The above partners have come to a mutual agreement to collaborate on Utah's lethality assessment processes that the state requires (per SB117) all Law Enforcement Agencies to engage in with their local Domestic Violence Service Provider.

### **III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **A. Role Definition**

Each participating agency will designate an internal LAP Coordinator who will be the person of contact for LAP-related communication and data sharing between agencies as well as be responsible for internal LAP training unless an additional trainer is designated.

1. DOVE Center LAP Coordinator refers to Justine Frias.
  - a. DVSP LAP Coordinator also acts as regional LAP Team Coordinator.
2. The Utah Tech University Police Department LAP Coordinator refers to Teresa Starnes.

#### **B. Training and Implementation**

1. The partner agencies have made a commitment to ensure that their staff members are equipped with current training. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) or the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition (UDVC) will be responsible for the training content and will provide various access options to the curriculum.
  - a. DPS and UDVC will provide in-service training materials for agency trainers to successfully cascade information to remaining staff.
2. The partner agencies will implement the LAP partnership together by 07/01/2023 after all necessary staff have been trained in Utah's LAP.
3. Utah Tech University Police Department, will fully train its patrol staff and those who investigate domestic violence cases on the following timeline;

- a. Complete initial internal staff training by 07/01/2023.
  - b. Will train all new patrol officers within 30 days of the new officers' start date and before they begin using the screening tool.
  - ~~c. Will re-train internally over a series of roll calls or in-service sessions once annually, or additionally if it is determined that performance needs to be improved.~~
4. DOVE Center will fully train its hotline staff and volunteer advocates on the following timeline;
    - a. Complete internal staff training by 07/01/2023 if they are not already trained and implementing the protocol.
    - b. Will train all new hotline advocates within 30 days of the advocates' start date and before they take hotline calls.
    - c. Will re-train hotline advocates at least once a year, and as often as needed if it is determined that performance needs to be improved.
  5. Agreement partners are encouraged to assist each other with internal training sessions.

#### **C. Regular Meetings**

1. Each partner agency will determine an agency representative, who will attend regular partnership meetings.
  - a. This person should be the designated LAP Coordinator but is not limited to only one person.
  - b. The regularity of this schedule will be determined by partners, but will be no less than quarterly.
  - c. These meetings will take place at a mutually agreed upon location and can be done virtually or over the phone.
2. At these meetings, the DVSP and LEA LAP Coordinators will lead in discussing recent data and statistics, agency participation and performance, and how to better serve High-Danger victims.

#### **D. Data Collection**

1. LEA will follow the designated procedure established by DPS, and any mutually agreed-upon method or specific contact information, when submitting all Lethality Screens.

### **IV. COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP**

By signing this agreement, Utah Tech University Police Department and DOVE Center are committing to faithfully follow all essential elements of Utah's Intimate Partner Violence Lethality Assessment Program for the duration of implementation.

### **V. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

This MOU does not require either party to obligate funds and does not create a legally binding commitment.

**A. Effective Date**

1. This MOU shall become effective upon the latter date of signature of the parties.

~~2. Implementation of Utah's Intimate Partner Violence Lethality Assessment Program~~ shall begin on the date specified in Section III.B and is effective for an initial three-year term.

2. Upon completion of the first term, parties may continue implementation of Utah's Intimate Partner Violence Lethality Assessment Program upon agreement of all participants.

**B. Amendment and Termination**

1. This MOU may be amended by the mutual written agreement between partners.

2. Signatories may terminate individual participation upon a 30-day written notice.

**We the undersigned agree to the terms outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Bridge, Chief of Police, Utah Tech University Police Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 5-24-23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jillian Penhale, Executive Director, DOVE Center

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date 5/24/23

