Vermont FTAP Presentation

FTAP All-Sites Meeting April 5, 2022

Vermont

- Vermont's estimated firearm ownership is 50%-the highest of all New England states
- ▶ Vermont is the second least populated state (620,000 est.)
- ► Highest percentage (61.1%) of residents residing in rural areas
- ▶ 255 municipalities, only eight have a population > 10,000
- ► Half of all Vermonters reside in areas with no local police department & rely on state police instead
- ▶ 21% of Vermont has no cell service or spotty service

Vision

Kerrie Johnson, VT Defender General's Office

The systems victims rely on understand and respond to firearms risk:

- ► Immediate surrender to law enforcement/ federally licensed firearm dealer
- Clarify surrender process
- Set defendants up for success

Key support for the project

Sarah Robinson, VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Management team and workgroup commitments
- Judicial engagement
- ► Form-driven approach

Moving forward Tari Scott, VT Courts

- Successful implementation of revisions to petitioner forms
- Law enforcement commitment
- ► U.S. Attorney's Office commitment
- ► Statewide impact

Where we are/challenges Carolyn Hanson, VT Attorney General's Office

- Significant first steps
- ► Challenge: Defendant declaration
- ► Compromise: Return of service/compliance hearing

Engaging survivors

Sarah Robinson, VT Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

- Statewide coalition involvement
- ► DV Council
- ► Court liaison task force

Culturally specific organization involvement

Kerrie Johnson, VT Defender General's Office

- **AALV**
- ► Abenaki Nation
- ▶ Disability Rights Vermont

Community engagement plan Tari Scott, VT Courts

- Involving underserved communities in the work
- ► Translation of forms and materials
- Engaging community partners to help address diverse needs

Next steps

Carolyn Hanson, VT Attorney General's Office Kevin Lane, Vermont State Police

- Changes to protection order form
- Involvement of federally licensed dealers
- ► Interactive map re: storage
- ► Informational materials: public and litigants
- Compliance review process
- Stakeholder training
- Connect with statewide fatality review team

Something unexpected

Kevin Lane, Vermont State Police